**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM OF OREGON BECC Special Meeting**

**Friday, July 21st, 2023**

**2:00 PM – 5:00PM**

OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

This meeting will be held by videoconference. Attend the meeting using the Zoom.com platform or by telephone.

• Any agenda item may become an action item.

• Any of these items may be a conflict of interest.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Hauth.
   1. Roll call.
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
3. ADA compliance.
4. Manager’s complaint updates and OCB’s cooperation with elected committee participation.
5. OCB’s responsibility and cooperation with BECC committees.
6. Update on Improper use by the agency of federal and set aside monies to litigate against VFM’s
7. Steve Jacksons profitability issues.
8. 50 machine mandate.
9. SFFC coupons
10. Chairman Hauth/Director Morris updates.
11. Adjournment

**Transcript**

A Stevenson: All right, is it three?

Miranda: Yeah, it's a little after three. Let me see, it is…

Webber: A little after two.

Miranda: I mean two! Two and two.

A Stevenson: I mean two.

Miranda: Yeah, yeah.

A Stevenson: Okay, well, I'll call this meeting to order. Let's check if we have a quorum first. So, Lewanda's here. Carole's here, Randy's here, Derrick's here. Steve, are you on the line? No Steve Jackson. I sent him a text message so, hopefully, he's definitely going to get on. So, anyways.

Miranda: We still have a quorum.

A Stevenson: Yeah, I have a quorum. We have a quorum. So, that's all we need. So, anyways, minutes of the last meeting were recorded and so, I would entertain a motion for the minutes.

Miranda: Do you want to see who else is here besides the board?

A Stevenson: Oh, yeah, I guess I better. Okay. Do we have any managers on the line? Guess we should do that, huh.

Hawkins: Char Hawkins.

A Stevenson: Char.

Miranda: Hi Char.

Hawkins: Hi. There's not very many, because there were only seven people on the call when we got on, so.

A Stevenson: Any man--, any other managers? No. Anybody with you today, Eric?

Morris: No, not today, Art.

A Stevenson: Okay. So, I guess we go on to...

Babcock: Art, this is Michael Babcock.

A Stevenson: …the rest of the meeting.

Babcock: I just wanted to be recognized that I'm here as a guest.

A Stevenson: Oh, okay, Michael, good to hear ya.

Miranda: Welcome.

A Stevenson: Exactly. Okay. So, now, on to the minutes of the last meeting. Do I have a motion? To acc--…

Miranda: I'll make a...

A Stevenson: Go ahead.

Miranda: I'll make a motion to accept the, the last meeting minutes as written.

A Stevenson: As recorded.

Miranda: As recorded.

A Stevenson: Yeah. Okay. Been a motion. Do I have a second?

Webber: I'll second it.

A Stevenson: Okay. Okay, we'll do a, any discussions, anything? No? Okay. Take roll call vote. Lewanda?

Miranda: Yes.

A Stevenson: Carole?

Webber: Yes.

A Stevenson: Derrick? Derrick?

D Stevenson: Yea.

A Stevenson: Okay. Randy? You're on mute. So, I'll say yea, so the motion carries.

Hauth: Yea.

A Stevenson: Okay, thank you, Randy. Okay. So, now, on to?

Webber: Public comment, Art.

A Stevenson: Oh, yeah, public comments.

Bird: Art?

A Stevenson: Yes, sir?

Bird: This is Jerry.

A Stevenson: Jerry Bird?

Bird: Just that I'm here. Just that I'm here.

A Stevenson: Oh, okay, okay.

Bird: Thank you.

A Stevenson: Thanks for coming.

D Stevenson: Hi, Jer.

A Stevenson: You bet. Okay.

Hawkins: Mr. Stevens?

A Stevenson: So, do we have any?

Hawkins: Yes. This is Char.

A Stevenson: Yes? Okay. You want to make a public comment, Char?

Hawkins: I believe if you're willing to make public testimony, that you should expect it to be publicly addressed or shared. And I believe the testimony that I read is going to affect many managers for years to come and it was very damaging, and I know I have my own opinion, that's what usually people say when I go off making public comments. But I do have my own opinion, but I believe it is, was very damaging to our program. And I guess one more little thing about disability services and whatever you call, accommodation? Sometimes when people are, are unable to work, they're just unable to work. I worked in the public sector for 25 years, and I kind of, I wasn't even really accommodated for my vision. You know, I was expected to do exactly the same thing as everybody else, but I certainly wouldn't have received any other accommodations. So, that’s all I have to say.

Bird: Jerry.

A Stevenson: So, can you relate to what public testimony you're talking about, Char, or are you talking about?

Hawkins: I mean, you know, I just I just feel like, say, Lin Jaynes, she was, it wasn't even just about her route, but she ended up having a double, two hip replacements, and you know, it could have enabled her maybe to continue working. But sometimes we just get too old to work. You know, it's just that way, you know. A lot of us are past retirement age, or some of us anyway, and it just happens. But to always go to, you know, towards the Commission for everything. I, I you know, I used to complain. In fact, Art Marshall shared it with everybody, which made a lot of people mad. But there were a lot of people on full-service vending at the time, and I was working in a cafeteria and I go, someday I'm just going to be too worn out to work, and, and then the others can just sit there and, you know, work a few hours, or however they were saying they were working and still get a check. So, I guess there's just a time when it's time to be, to retire. And I, I guess I will say, I've given my job a yea--, I said I would give it a year. I'm actually in charge of three buildings, trying to make a living, and I just lost another $1,200 last month. So, you know, it's, I do believe that we need to search for other avenues of, of you know, working revenue besides micro-markets and in state buildings where there's no people. So, that's, that's all I have to say.

Bird: Jerry.

A Stevenson: Okay, thanks, thanks for that Char. Now, you lost, you lost 1,200 bucks last month because of your micro-markets?

Hawkins: Well, I have a micro-market.

A Stevenson: is that what you're say--…

Hawkins: Well, yeah, I mean, you know, I, rather it was, you know, theft, or food costing too high and prices too low, or… I was actually trying to run a, the, the coffee bar that the Commission spent all that money on, which, I understand them doing that. It was beautiful. Who knew Covid was gonna hit. I've been in that building for four months, and I can sell about eight to $1,200 a month in there. The other, like, this last week, I sold $6 Monday. And so, I'm actually just, I, I just have to walk away from that. And then, I have a, two snack machines, and in the Employment Building, that we just put back into snack machines, because I believe there was a lot of theft over there.

A Stevenson: Mmmm!

Hawkins: And my micro-market, which is the only thing kind of making money right now, in the Labor and Industries building, and it's getting down to about $200 days now. Instead of it was, we had a couple of four, $500 days, you know. Some are in the basement. We all know that, Lewanda knows that for sure, so, it could pick up this winter. I was willing to give it to the end of the year, to see if that was gonna happen. So, I'm, I'm hanging in. But I'm just saying, it's really, I'm very discouraged, you know, and I, I can't keep taking from my savings to, to, you know. So, anyway. [inaudible]

A Stevenson: Char, you do realize, you do, you do, yeah, you do, you, you do realize that the Elected Comm--, I mean, the vending facility development committee and the Elected Committee developed minimum standards to have a micro-market, and that we develop those standards in accordance with, you know, pretty basically, you know, other companies that have micro-markets, and they won't even establish them unless they fit those parameters, including building population, etc., etc. So, you do, you do realize that the, the Elected Committee did adopt those standards and feel that a micro-market should not exist if it doesn't meet those bare…

Hawkins: Art, I, I do realize that. But right now, three of us wouldn't even have a job if we didn't take what we got and try and make it, because Celyn wouldn't have a job. Carole wouldn't have a job. I wouldn't have a job. Steve, actually four of us. Steve Jackson wouldn't have a job, because none of our micro-markets are going to meet that standard. And then, what else are we going to do? Because there's nothing else out there right now. So, I guess it's just me wanting to have a dog. And, and I, we fought hard for those locations. [inaudible] let them go.

A Stevenson: Well, you have vending, correct? You have, you have vending, correct?

Hawkins: I just repeat…

A Stevenson: Aren’t they, you have vending, and that, that is, con--, that's considered a vending facility. I mean, so, you do.

Hawkins: I, I have vending.

A Stevenson: You do have a facility. And if the micro-markets aren't making it, and you're losing money. You still have a facility. The same with Steve Jackson and Carole Webber, and the others.

Brown: I…

Hawkins: Six vending machines in an empty building aren't going to make it.

Brown: This is Celyn, I joined the meeting, and I only have two vending machines.

A Stevenson: Okay, Celyn, okay. Well, okay, well, and, and so, you know, anyways. We'll move on from there. Just wanted to.

Bird: Jerry.

A Stevenson: Yeah. Go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Yeah, I got a couple of comments here. My first one is about the testimony. And I agree with that testimony. And, and it, it was, it was correct. It was nothing made up like, sometimes, the agency tells the legislators. And all they think of is the agency side. I'm very disappointed that some people will say, oh, it's going to hurt our program forever. No, that's the ones that want to stay stuck in the mud for years and years and years. So, I am glad Randy done that, and more of us should do it and, and, and we've been trying to stop this. But, like, I say, some people just want to kiss the butt. And then I'll comment on Char's. Char has jumped around so many times in this program and had so many units. She had a nice vending route, she gives it up. She does the, up at the falls. She does this. You had the, she had the, all kinds of stuff. And she just jumps around. She even tried to run one herself. So, sometimes there's just managers that can't manage places, but they blame it on the rest of us. So, that's my comment. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Okay, okay, is there any other public comment? I would like to…

Hauth: I do, Art, I do have, I do have a, Art, I have a comment I'd like to read into the record.

A Stevenson: Okay, go ahead, Randy.

Hauth: Okay, so, just so you all know, the, this month is the ADA commemorative month, and I have something here I'd like to read. It says, July is the ADA Anniversary month. July is a monumentous month in the history of disability rights. On July 26th, 1990, the American with Disabilities Act, ADA was signed into law, making a significant milestone in the fight for equal opportunities and accessibility. The landmark civil rights legal, hold on, the landmark, the landmark civil rights legislation prohibits discrimination and ensures that individuals with disabilities have the same opportunities to employment, opportunities, goods, services, and participation in government programs and services, such as, in this case, the Business Enterprise Program. So, all persons are a ride [sic], allowed the right to have equal treatment and equal access to the programs. There's no age discrimination. There's no disability discrimination, you know, in the perfect world that works well. But you know, I haven't seen that work so well here. So, those are the things we need to continue to advocate for and push for, and not just be like, Jerry said, stuck in the mud. And, you know, playing catch up. We need to forge a new future for our program. And thank you very much!

A Stevenson: Okay, thank you, Randy. I appreciate it. Okay, yeah, I do want to make a public comment. Last, last meeting, as you all know, I requested whistleblower status and the protection of those laws in regards to federal and state most definitely, and I also want to say that I believe in the ADA, which allows us reasonable accommodations to do our work. And that's the reason why the ADA was created. And so, I celebrate that very much so. But I do want to state something on the record. We got to thinking about what's been going on in the program concerning the vending money coming into the program and how the Oregon Commission for the Blind without the active participation of the Elected Committee decided that vending machine income that they were bringing into the program was all of a sudden going to go into the set-aside account, without a vote of the Elected Committee. And just arbitrarily, capriciously, that they were going to use that vending money and make it set-aside. Well, set-aside, if you look at the, the, the definition, if money is set-aside or caused to be set-aside from the net proceeds of vending facility. That's net proceeds from the vending facility, you know, it would be determined, you know, with the active participation of the Elected Committee, that a set-aside rate will be set. Not the Oregon Commission for the Blind arbitrarily and capriciously saying, we are going to take vending mach--, vending commissions that we receive and make it set-aside. Which is not the net proceeds from a vending facility. It is actually commissions received from vending facilities that are being operated by third-party contractors. And so, for the record, the agency created more money going to the set-aside and they weren't supposed to do that. And so, all that money that the agency has been collecting from the Commission's vending facilities, should be the blind licensed managers’ money and not the Oregon Commissions for the Blind. I'm sure that the Elected Committee didn't vote it to go into set-aside. And I'm also sure that the Oregon Commission for the Blind did not ask if they could adopt a new policy to take vending machine income, commissions and, and make it set-aside. And so, I do believe that that money has been used inappropriately, and that every penny, every penny that the agency arbitrarily and capriciously made set-aside, should be given back to the managers in this program, one way or the other, because they've been collecting it and using it inappropriately. Okay, so, that's my public statement and oh, I might add, that I believe that anybody has the right to give public testimony on issues. It, it's called the First Amendment and quite frankly, I think the agency hurts our program a lot more than the blind licensed managers, and we have the right to point out discrepancies or things that are going on to legislators or whoever. So, anyways, that's the end of my public comment. Anybody else have a public comment?

Jackson: Steve Jackson's here.

A Stevenson: Hey, Steve!

Jackson: Hi, guys! Sorry I'm late. I wasn't here right on time, but I've been here listening.

A Stevenson: Go ahead.

Jackson: My public comment is, I just have a quick public comment or statement, I guess. I'm just really perplexed why the unassigned vending has not gone to, to managers. It, it could be discussed, and we've had many meetings. And I just, I find it weird that it's not assigned to managers.

Hauth: Yeah.

Jackson: Hopefully, someday, they will be. Right?

A Stevenson: Yeah, thank you, Steve.

Jackson: [inaudible] managers.

A Stevenson: Okay, any other public comment? Carole?

Webber: No, I was just going to tell you the next item. I thought you were done.

A Stevenson: Okey dokey.

Webber: Are we ready? Okay? The next item on the agenda is ADA compliance.

A Stevenson: Okay? Let me see who put that? Well, let me, let, let me just start this off. I mean, the law is perfectly clear, that we're supposed to be provided reasonable accommodations under the law and those accommodations, as I pointed out, should be talked about not only, you know, by a manager who requested reasonable accommodations, but it should not be arbitrarily and capriciously decided by the agency alone whether there's a reasonable accommodation or not. Obviously, if, if an individual doesn't feel that they need reasonable accommodations, for like, if they had a hip replacement or they had a heart attack, or any of that kind of thing. It's, it's up to the individual to say, well, I don't think I deserve reasonable accommodations. And that's an individual's right to say whether they or not, they need accommodating. But for other individuals to say, well, I never claimed reasonable accommodation, so nobody else should deserve to receive reasonable accommodations, I mean, that's just flat wrong, in my opinion. I think it should be a joint decision. But you know, the simple fact of the matter is, when you're blind you can't drive a car, can’t drive a van, can't do any of that kind of stuff. So, you have to hire somebody to do it. Pay him more money and lose that money. And so, you know, those things should all be taken into consideration. But it shouldn't be totally the agency’s right to decide if it's a reasonable accommodation, it should be the individual who is requesting it, because I'm sure if they didn't need a reasonable accommodation, they wouldn't be asking for it, but if they do, then they have the right to ask for it. But, more importantly, if they request it, and it is within reason, they should be allowed it. And it needs to be a process where not just the agency gets to decide. It should be a joint decision-making process, as I stated before, with some active participation of the Elected Committee to give their perspective on whether it's reasonable or not. So, anyways, that's my thoughts on the ADA, if you don't want accommodations, then don't ask for them. But if you need accommodations and you want accommodations, then under the law, you should be given those reasonable accommodations. Okay. So.

Hauth: Hey, Art?

A Stevenson: I truly believe that.

Hauth: Let me, let me just jump in here. Just. Hey, Art, let me jump in here just real quick. So.

A Stevenson: Well, go ahead, Randy.

Hauth: Okay. So, I know I've mentioned this a few times. It's my understanding that back when I was going through my medical health conditions, and I was bringing that attention to the agency and trying to navigate the health system during the midst of Covid. It was my understanding that the agency, well, one, Dacia Johnson’s put in writing that we didn't even fall under or they didn't even have to comply with the ADA and Title II relative to my situation, which was wrong. And so, then, secondly, didn't even look like the agency as is required had a form, had a reasonable accommodation form. So, if you go through, there's a reasonable accommodation form that's required, there's a complaint process separate and distinct with the ADA, there's a point of contact that the agency's supposed to have. So, just so you know, none of that, none of that occurred, right? None of that happened. So, the agency here is now playing catch up. I, you know, I will say for the record, I think there's been delays in responding, which a delay is a denial. Right? So, again, when you had mentioned about the Business Enterprise Program BECC not being involved or included in developing the form, I thought to myself, well, I don't think we have to be, and I don't think that's required. But then I got to thinking, well, maybe Art is right here. Maybe he has a point, because Title II of the ADA talks about special programs and services, the Business Enterprise Program, and so, you know, it certainly wouldn't, in my mind, wouldn't be outside the scope of reasonableness that that should have occurred. So, I hope the agency continues to get better and work in good faith with people who are suffering secondary medical conditions and or blindness, any barriers. You know, people need to understand the law, they need to read it and absorb it and know where, you know, we fall in with those, those rights afforded and allow. So, thank you. I'm back on mute. Appreciate it.

Bird: Jerry.

A Stevenson: All right, go ahead, Jer.

Bird: I have a quick comment about this ADA. As we discussed in other meetings and that, that I just filed for ADA. I have a secondary disability and it sounds like some people think if you have a secondary disability, it shouldn't count, they should just leave the program, but they don't understand that with a secondary disability, there's still plenty of stuff you can do to manage your, your unit. You know, there's all kinds of paperwork, ordering, you know. Counting cash, I mean, all these things are on a, a 30-hour work week, which you all must comply. You don't have enough… If you're not making any money, and you can't. You're not making any money, then you certainly can't be doing this 30-hour work week. So, therefore, that's when the agency is supposed to provide you alternive [sic] facility or vending machine, or whatever to breet [sic] so, you can meet that. Sounds like some people just wanted you to be disregarded and thrown away, that, you know, you're getting old. And, and, you know, people that run their own business, if we are self-employed, independent businesspeople that just happen to be blind, I'm really disappointed in that. I think that, that just to have, just other disabilities, that they can't run this program when most of them pay more set-aside than most, you've been running it good. So, that's true. And just what Randy said, they, they didn't even, they was supposed to have a, a, a, a, a, a thing to fill out. It wasn't until months ago that they done so. So, once again, this is a very important issue, ADA, that most people we didn't even realize until, you know, people are getting older and they start getting other disabilities, but they are not to be disregarded and thrown out to the garbage. Either by age or anything else. Accommodations can help them, you know. So, I'm really disappointed in some of these other comments that, that they can, they can leave, they can retire. But act like it's a requirement when, when it's the agency that failed to provide them money when you earn, what is it called? Where you, you don't make the money they're supposed to pay ya, that bring you up to the average? And they don't. They just sit back on their hands and, and, and praise the agency when the agen--, it's the agency that's failing them. So, I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Okay, Jerry. Well, I will say, I'm going to make one more comment here and then we'll move on. That, you know, there's a lot of older people out there that oversee businesses and allow others to do the work, but they oversee it. And they get to a stage, they work all their life really hard. And then they get to a stage where, you know, they let the other people do all the work, and they oversee it. And, by golly, you know, as a person, you know, who's older now, I kind of like to oversee, not have to work that hard, but we, as blind people, have the right to do that just like other people who run businesses. And to say that we don't have that right just because we're in the vending program is completely wrong. And, and so, this age thing is kind of discriminatory. And you're not supposed to discriminate because of your age. And I, I can tell you, there's a lot of people out there that turn it over to the young ones and oversee it, make sure the job gets done, and they get to, you know, reap the benefits. And just because we're a part of this program, doesn't mean that we shouldn't have the same rights. And so, you know, to, to say that, you know, is wrong. I work really hard to get into a vending route, you know, worked many, many years, busting my rear end, cafeterias, snack bar, etc., etc. And then, I finally got a vending route, which, you know, was a little bit easier. Now, I'm to a point, you know, where it's kind of more profitable to have a subcontractor and oversee them and make more money, which is my right to choose as an independent entrepreneur, a sole proprietorship. I get to decide how I want to run my business because I am the sole proprietor of my business, and that should be my right, period. Whether I'm 67, going on 68, or 45 going on 34. But anyways. Okay, any more public comments, so, we can get going?

D Stevenson: This is Derrick. I got a meeting to go to. So, I gotta leave.

A Stevenson: Alright, Derrick.

Miranda: Bye, Derrick.

A Stevenson: Okay, no other public comments? What's next on the agenda? Are you about ready, Randy?

Bird: Art, that, we was already past public comments. That was part of our agenda.

A Stevenson: Oh, that was ADA, yeah, the ADA. So, so, anyways, you know, I'm still, I don't know where this going, but I still believe that, you know, the Elected Committee should weigh in on whether, you know, a request is a reasonable accommodation, and, and, and so forth. I don't think the agency has a right to just make the decision. I think the Elected Committee should at least have input on, on the decision-making process, if reasonable accommodations are going to be given or not. So, anyways, I'm going to make a motion again, that we should be consulted and allowed to, to, to weigh in when blind licensed managers are asking for reasonable accommodations. No, second? Okay, no second, we'll move on then. What's the next item up for?

Webber: It's managers’ complaints, updates, and OCB's Cooperation with Elected Committee participation.

A Stevenson: Say that again?

Webber: Managers’ complaint update and OCB's cooperation with Elected Committee participation. In other words, just the complaint updates. And then, a, at this, about cooperation with the Elected Committee having participation.

A Stevenson: Okay. Obviously, in the complaint process, the blind licensed manager has a right to ask for advocacy in filing a complaint. And once the Elected Committee, I mean the blind licensed manager has asked for the assistance of the Elected Committee, then, of course, they should get together with the blind licensed manager and file the complaint with that. Now, I do know that I approached the Elected Committee concerning the awarding of the two vending facilities to add to my route for compensation over locations that I lost. And of course, the Elected Committee voted that they should be assigned to me and as a matter of fact, it was put on my operating agreement that those two locations were added to my account. And that since that time, I have not received a penny of the commissions for that. And of course, you know, the state law says that the Commission for or the Blind can only provide for the continued operation of a vending facility, if a blind licensed manager is not available, until the blind licensed manager is available for assignment as manager. Of course, the Elected Committee assigned those two locations to me. The agency put them on my list and then, you know, I had some medical problems. I had some concerns about storage capacity to be able to do the one location, and of course, was working on getting that all, all resolved, but still have not received a penny from that location, those locations, even though I was assigned to them. As I mentioned before, I do believe the agency is required by law, okay, once it's been assigned, the manager is to operate the facility whether it be servicing the facility or having the third-party contractor do it. It's still, it has a law, the law says, operate the vending, it says, the blind licensed manager shall operate any vending facility. It doesn't say shall fully service it, or any of that kind of stuff. And you know, there's obviously two kinds of operating. Either you service it yourself or you oversee the company to service it for you, which is completely legal and so forth. So, the agency, just like I said about the commissions that they’re receiving from the vending facility, has been confiscating that money, putting it into set-aside, when it's not supposed to be put into set-aside. It's supposed to go to the blind licensed manager, so, I would appreciate the Elected Committee to make sure that the agency gets in and complies with the law with those two facilities and, and make sure that I get the income. And then, you know, I actually tried to, I contacted the agency and said, hey, you know, I can go ahead and start doing the 911 call center. Please make arrangements to get those machines placed, and of course, they still haven't got them placed or anything. And so, I'm trying to abide by what I can do, even though, you know, the agency isn't complying with the law and keeping the money from those two locations that was assigned to me months ago. Anyways, so, I would appreciate it if the Elected Committee will get OC--, get OCB to comply with the law and make sure that they're not collecting money and throwing it into set-aside, instead of it going to a blind licensed manager to help make up for several locations that I lost, closed down because of the pandemic and stuff. Okay, anyways, appreciate your help, Elected Committee, to get the agency to comply with the law and quit taking money from the blind licensed manager, and throwing it into set-aside, which is completely illegal for them to do.

Hauth: Art?

A Stevenson: Okay, what's next? Yes, sir?

Hauth: Art, have you? Have you asked Eric? Is Eric able to explain to you what you just grieved about, basically. Are you getting anywhere with that?

A Stevenson: Well, like I said, you know, I mentioned, that it hadn't been assigned to me by Eric, you know, the subcontractors was doing the work. You know, we're not contracted, and it wasn't assigned to me. And of course, like I, said, Randy, you know, I had some medical problems and then I had some storage problems that, you know, I, told the agency, hey, I'm concerned I'm not going to be able to get enough product to be able to serve, you know, the city police thing, because of all the things going on with, you know, getting product, etc., etc. and my storage space ready, and the other one, I said, yeah, I had the medical problems, but we had an agreement that they would start the process of doing it, turning it over to me several months ago, and they haven't done a single thing to do that either. So, the answer is...

Hauth: Hey, Eric?

A Stevenson: I tried to work with the agency.

Hauth: Well, being Eric's on the line. I don't know if he can give an update, or if you can ask him for an update on that? Or see where you are with that, that might be helpful for you. I don't know. But just my thought.

Morris: Yeah, Randy, I can definitely comment on that if you'd like me to. My understanding was that Ben, Ben was reaching out to Art to get that set up and get it installed. And then, Art was pointing out, there's been some hiccups and stuff, so, I think that's where we're at.

A Stevenson: But it still has, I still not have received one penny from it, even though it was assigned to me, and there was some hiccups, but it was still, I mean, the law specifically states, you can only provide for the operation un--, until a manager has been assigned. I had been assigned, and, and you still, you know, are collecting all that money inappropriately. And, and just because I had a hiccup and a medical problem with the one, and I still have the storage problem with the other one, you know, you guys just don't seem to care. You just want to keep collecting money, even though those locations have been assigned to me.

Morris: Art, the only other comment I would make today is, I'd have you go back and take a look at your operating agreement. Specifically, to those locations and see what it says. And then, we could talk about it some more.

A Stevenson: Well, Eric, I looked at the operating agreement, and I might add, okay, that the Elected Committee rejected all of your rules and regulations and the operating agreement. And the only reason that I signed the operating agreement was, you guys said I wasn't in compliance, in compliance. And so, you know, I had to do what I had to do. I mean, you tried to get it so I would have to go service my whole prison with that until I said, uh, wait a minute. You guys told me that I had to sign a contract, and then I'm not letting you out of that agreement. But you tried to force me to do that. So, obviously, Eric, you didn't have any problems at all when I lost the locations, to bring me back up to the 50 machines and collect the money from it inappropriately. But when, when it comes to, to me then, or me getting the money, you want to keep, you want to keep collecting it. So, I know exactly what occurred during the whole process. You know what occurred during the process. I asked to have locations added to my, to my route after I lost those several locations, which I was servicing, and oh, no, you couldn't do that then, because you wanted to put the money into set-aside inappropriately. But then, at the end of the year, you know, it was, hey, now you got to do a 50-machine mandate, you got to serve, you got to service everything, even though you have medical problems, or any of that other kind of stuff, that doesn't matter. So, I know exactly what's gone on, Eric. The simple fact of matter is, those locations were assigned to me. I made myself available to, to be the manager assigned to it and it doesn't say, it doesn't say anywhere in state statutes or the federal statutes, okay, that it be mandatory that, that I service them, especially if I have some problems being able to do it. So, you say whatever you want to, but it's awful convenient that you can make up rules, rules like 50 machine mandate, and then let it go by the wayside, only because you want the money to go into set-aside, instead of to a manager to help them be self-supporting, which is your obligation under the law. It says you're supposed to help me become self-supporting, not take the money away from me.

Hauth: One thing I would say, is, one thing I would say, Art, and Eric correct me if I'm wrong, but the agreements can be changed, or the addendum to the agreements can be changed by mutual acceptance. Like if the agency wanted to give those machines to Art, and he was ready for them, or whatever the situation was, then you guys could enter into an agreement to add that, right?

Morris: Randy, were you asking me?

Hauth: Yes.

Morris: Yeah, the contract, it's the, the operating agreement is essentially a contract. So, it can be amended. And I believe in Art's case, that's exactly what happened with those, those machines. In fact, if I remember correctly, Art was given a list of machines to select from, specifically chose those locations, and that's what was added to his operator agreement, as I recall.

Bird: Eric?

Hauth: Thanks. Art, go ahead. Art, I could take the meeting over. Just real quickly, you guys, I apologize for the in and outness, and Art, thank you for stepping up. I've had a, a animal health emergency that we've been working through this last few days, and I've been needed to be involved. So, I do apologize for that. But you know, it is what it is. So, I'm back for now. And Jerry, go ahead.

Bird: Yes, I think I'm kind of clear on what Eric’s thoughts are. He signed an operating agreement that had an illegal 50 machine mandate that he made up and we have proven that. All there is, is a 30-hour work week. Now, he wants to come back to your opera--, you signed it and agreed to this mandate. Well, the mandate was illegal. It was made up by Eric Morris, just to force people to do 50 machines, whether you do it or not. Once again, you, they can only assigned you more machines on what you're doing if you don't meet the 30 hour work week. There is no 50 machine mandate. Is there a 50-machine mandate, Eric? This is a question.

Hauth: Let's all. Let's all be, you know, let's all be professional and respectful, guys. And I, you, Jerry, listen. I agree. I agree there is no mandate. Well, there is a mandate, because the agency has been mandating people to do it. However, you know, you know, I'll, I'll turn it over to Eric and let him answer your question, but let's all be as, you know, respectful as we can with each other, please. Go ahead, Eric.

Morris: Yeah. I think the important thing to remember here, and Jerry, it's not a mandate. You guys started calling it a mandate because I think that's triggering to people. Several years ago now, 2017, 2018, we got over two million dollars of equipment for the program. The 50 machines is an equal distribution of the machines amongst the vending routes. That's what it was. So, if we would have done it some other way, people… Wow, I don't know what's going on in the background. If people wouldn't have been happy about that. So, evenly dividing it amongst the vending routes for 50 machines each, is what we came up with. So, that's where we are today.

Bird: [inaudible] Eric [inaudible].

A Stevenson: Randy, I want to say one more thing. I, I, I want to, I want to say one more thing. Okay. The law is very specific on vending machines, vending facilities. It says, okay, that the agency can only provide for the continued operation of a vending facility, if a qualified blind licensed manager is not available for assignment as a manager, until a qualified blind manager is available for assignment as manager. Okay? And here's the bottom line. When I lost all those locations, I made myself available to be assigned some other locations, so that, that I could, they could be assigned to me. And the agency just flat refused to do it. I am a qualified blind licensed manager. I lost those locations, and I asked for them to be replaced by the other locations that the agency had, and they refused to do so. So, they were out of compliance with the law, and I was a qualified licensed manager, and I made myself available to make up for the ones that I lost, and they refused to comply with the law, period, end, end of story. And, and there is no other way to do it. And the law says, okay, that a blind licensed manager shall operate, shall operate vending facilities in order to become more self-supporting, and the agency flat refused to do it. That's the bottom line there. That's what the law says, and you know, what the agency can or, or can't do. And the Elected Committee, I mean, we had to fight to find out that they had taken over the city police station, and well, anyways, I'm, I'm, I'm gonna end it there. So, when, when a blind licensed manager makes theirself available, the agency's supposed to assign it, period. [inaudible]

Hauth: Well, yeah, yeah, hey, I, I would, I would, I would en--.

Bird: Jerry.

Hauth: I would, go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Yes, I want to comment on the question I asked Eric. He, he just said, that apparently, they never made no mandate. It's, it’s the managers come up with this mandate. I don't know where he's coming from. I got emails from Tom Pileggi, and others, calling it a mandate. Now, when staff calls it a mandate, and you try to say we made it up, that's another, that's another typical BE dictation, or what do you want to call it, so Eric… Just I'm, I’m uh, I don't know. I can't believe, you'll just keep saying stuff that, that leaves you guys not at fault. So, I don't like that comment. And it's untrue.

Hauth: Okay, what do we have next? Thank you, Jerry.

Webber: We have OCB's responsibility and cooperation with BECC committee.

Hauth: With BE? BEP? What? I'm sorry, Carole.

Webber: It's okay. BECC committee.

Hauth: Okay, Art, maybe you, maybe you asked to put this in, or Lewanda, maybe you asked? I'm not sure. I know it wasn't something that I'd requested. So, whoever would like to speak on it, please have the floor. Well, I, I, I…

Miranda: It was yours, Art.

Hauth: Go ahead. Hello?

Miranda: Art, that's yours.

A Stevenson: Okay. I'm trying to remember.

Hauth: Well, I can say while, while you're gathering your, hey, Art, while you're gathering your thoughts, I'll just say real quickly. I do know that there was some requests made by you, Lewanda, for unassigned vending, and also there was a request made for the work product that Tom Pileggi had supposedly created, and I know there was some other information request that you had made, and either they weren't provided, or it took a long, long time, or they were partially provided. So, you know, that might have something to do with what prompted this. But go ahead, Art.

A Stevenson: Well. Randy. Obviously, the committees are put together to work with the agency in, in accomplishing things, like the Vending Facility Development Committee, you know. And say, for instance, you know, we adopted the parameter. I mean, we went out and we did a lot of research on what, what makes, what parameters should be followed to have a successful micro-market. And of course, then we made recommendations to the Elected Committee on minimum requirements on establishing a micro-market. So, they, so that obviously, they would be successful. And those kind of things, you know, comply with the law, I mean. The state statutes obviously says that the agency is supposed to draw rules and regulations and policies to ensure the proper and satisfactory operation of the vending facilities and for the benefit of the managers. Now, obviously, developing parameters for a micro-market to be profitable, obviously, is a must. And if the minimum standard’s not met, then we shouldn't be establishing micro-markets that lose money. I think Char was talking about that earlier, losing money on micro-markets, and these, these requirements when the Elected Committee, you know, votes that these parameters should be followed. And if they aren't, then we shouldn't. If, if the building doesn't fulfill those requirements, then, you know, micro-markets shouldn't be established, just because the people in the building want the convenience of having a micro-market. In other words, we don't want to,

properly and satisfactorily operate means that, hey, the manager's got to be making a profit. They can't be losing money. If they're losing money, then it, then it shouldn't exist. But those kind of things aren't being followed. And it's causing a lot of problems. I mean, we just can't be making these things because of the whims of, you know, agencies because they want something, and then they go out and they don't use it. And the ones who suffer are the blind licensed managers. There's the ones that lose money, instead of making money, which is not what this program is about. I mean, we don't do, we don't do this work, you know, to be ignored. We do this work because we believe rules and regulations and policies should be beneficial to the blind licensed manager. And if they aren't beneficial to the blind licensed manager, then the agency shouldn't just arbitrarily and capriciously do it anyway. Especially when the Elected Committee votes on these things to be done, because we represent the managers. We repre--, we, we gather all the information and then we vote on things so that they are beneficial to the blind licensed managers, not a detriment.

Hauth: Okay? Anyone else?

A Stevenson: And quite… Yeah.

Hauth: Alright.

A Stevenson: And again, you know, and I'll state this, I've stated it, but I've stated this before, Randy, you know, Eric has always used well, that's not for active participation. Well, when it deals with money, the program losing money or making money, then it is a, a major administrative decision, because money coming in or, or us losing money, affects the overall administration of the program, whether Eric wants to admit it or not, or the agency wants to admit it or not.

Hauth: Okay, thank you, Art. Anyone else? Okay, what do we have next on the agenda?

Webber: It's, it's update on improper use by the agency of federal and set-aside money to litigate against the VFMs.

Hauth: Oh, so, yeah, thank you. I know this is something that I've been, been, it's been near and dear to my heart. I think, April 5th, we rec--, I know the agency rec-- monitoring on vocational rehabilitation, which had a number of findings, continued findings. I mean, if you go back three, four years, and you see the things that the agency had been written up on, or what they call findings. And you move forward, and you see those things continuing to happen, you kind of scratch your head. And I just read that report here a couple of days ago, and it was actually eye opening, excuse the pun. But also about that time, RSA did inform the agency that they shan't be using federal [inaudible] and so, they said, oh, yes, we think we can. And yadda yadda yadda. So, I asked a couple of questions of the Executive Director and also I filed a complaint about it, and the complaint was denied, just basically denied with no grounds saying, oh, well, you've known we've been doing this for the longest time, you know. You're outside your 60-day window. So, it was pretty clear to me that the agency is administering the program in many ways by the use of these monies, throwing it at the AG, in my opinion, and that was one of the things in my public testimony, which, you know, everybody has a right to agree or disagree. I don't, I don't hold that against anybody, but what I will share is public testimony is acceptable, if you know how to navigate the system and go out and look on the Ways and Means Subcommittee. I felt it was improper for the director to spotlight that testimony and send it out to the managers and for interested parties. I believe, trying to depictate [sic] me in a bad way. And like, you know, Char was saying earlier, I mean, if it, if it's true or not, or if she believes it or not, you can see where the agency tries to divide people. Again, we don't all have to agree on things, and I'm not always right. But what I can tell you is, one of the things that I spotlighted to the Human Service, or the House Committee. The subcommittee was, look it, this agency was told they can't be using this money to litigate against managers, and they're continuing to do it. And they've spent like $150,000. And also, they're collecting all this unassigned vending. Like Char says, gosh, I can't make any money. Well, if you look at the unassigned vending that the agency is gobbling up, a lot of that money to go to help stimulate other managers like Steve and Carole, and you know, whoever, whatever anybody that needs it, instead of the agency. So, when I laid those things out, choose the human services, or the subcommittee, I identify, look it, if the agency's wanting more money, why aren't they making better use of the money that they're using now? And why are they, you know, allowed to continue to improperly use that money to litigate against managers? So, you know, that's, that's something that I know I'm looking into addressing further. I think it's a really key component to the health of and safety of the managers in the program. My hope is that the RSA will actually issue a directive rather than just a letter, because I know, the agency said, well, we'll listen to the directive. We can't listen to just a letter, but we'll listen to the directive. So, my hope is that that will happen, or other efforts going forward will ensure that the agency is not doing that, I can tell you that I did file a complaint with the Secretary of State's ethics division as the improper use of those monies because it is improper. And there's some other options and availability to address this matter. So, just, it's, it's, it's, it’s not a good thing, you know. It's just, it’s not a good thing. So, thank you.

Bird: Jerry.

Hauth: Anybody else? Jerry, go ahead.

Bird: Yes, I think if we look at it in common sense, this agency, since if, if, if you add up probably even just Eric's time here, it's probably more like $700,000. This agency took it on itself, to refuse, wanted to get immunity, solvent immunity. And we took it to the Supreme Court, because all the other courts agreed with us that they don't have it. They spent all that money, justified it, and say we've got solvent immunity, and their intention was that if you cannot, you will not get paid for your attorney, and you will not get any money in lost wages, or, or whatever it may be. And they went so far to do that. And then, then they decided they'd start doing this, and they had us in the corner. What are you guys gonna do? We're gonna do whatever we want. And you got money to get an attorney? We do. We use your money. You know, how does that? Anybody can make a common sense that they spend our set-aside for their attorney and then say that we, to not, we have to spend money on our attorney. Well, you know, that's got to be the nuttiest thing I ever heard of, and then they still support it. I mean, it's like, it's like, I don't know. What is it? This curre--… I mean it’s, it's standing on the blind people, we're trying to get you guys in the corner, you're going to be little kids, and we'll tell you what to do and what you're going to do about it? And that's been their attitude. And like, I say, it's, it's, it's insane. Common sense would be, why would we spend our set-aside money when they want to fight against us? You guys spend your state money. Well, no, we're gonna, you can't use money, but we'll use it against you. And then that, that takes away services, vending facilities, any kind of stuff. A fair minimum wages, because they're spending our money. They blow their budget right out on, on attorney fees, because apparently, this agency does everything with the Attorney General. Like we said last week, they, they're, like, running the program. And so, they run to the attorney general in every little thing, because...

Hauth: Okay thank you, Jerry.

Bird: Hey? Okay, you bet. Thank you.

Hauth: Anybody else? You bet, thank you. Anyone else?

A Stevenson: Hey, Randy?

Hauth: Yes, Art? Go ahead.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Hauth: Yes?

A Stevenson: You know, I did want to bring up one, one thing here on the full evidentiary hearings. Again, you know, the agency always says we have the right to issue the final order. So, in other words, the individuals who are being complained against, they get to issue the final order. And the final order is not based on law most of the time, it's just based on what, whatever the agency wants to force upon us, no matter what. And this is wrong, I mean, you know, the AG in the agency should not have the right to issue the final order. The final order should be by the ALJ. It should be based on the laws, not what the agency and the AG want to say the law says. This is a continued problem. It's a waste of time and money. And you know, it most definitely does need to stop. No, the only, the only thing that should happen when an ALJ is making a ruling, it should be based on the laws and the rules and regulations on the program, not the Attorney General and agency's wishes on what the law says. So, and again, you know, we gotta continue to expose this garbage, because quite frankly, I don't like spending money on an attorney and litigation when the agency gets to make up what a full evidentiary hearing is, and I can guarantee you, that's not what a full evidentiary hearing on the federal level is. The judge makes the ruling, not the person who you're complaining against. So, deck is stacked, and the agency continues to do this, even though it isn't a true full evidentiary hearing based on just the laws and the rules and regulations. And that's, that's about all I can say on that. But…

Hauth: Okay. Yeah, when I looked into it a little bit…

A Stevenson: [inaudible] to get. Go ahead, Randy.

Hauth: Art, I was gonna tell you, when I looked into it a little bit more, as I recall, you know, the, these agencies receive grant money, matching federal money in a form of a grant, and that intended grant, based on the rehabilitation is not to litigate against people that they're supposed to be serving, right? So, the RSA says, look it, this is ridiculous. It doesn't make sense, it's improper, you can't do it, but you know… It doesn't even, it doesn't even fit the purpose of what those monies are for, but our agency continues to do it. Snuffs their nose at not only the blind vendors, but RSA as well, unfortunately. So, any, anything else on this before we move, move forward?

A Stevenson: And our rights.

Hauth: Okay, what do we have next?

Webber: Next, is Steve Jackson's profitability issues.

Hauth: All right. So, I know Steve, you, I know Steve brought this up, I believe, or Art did on behalf of Steve, somebody did. But I know, Steve, you're on the line, and you can speak for yourself, but I know it's been a long struggle dating back to when you, as one of the only managers, were forced to relinquish one of your facilities, right? And I mean, the list goes on and on. Just looking from afar and seeing the emails that have gone back and forth, it looks like a lot of times maybe you haven't been responded to. Even though there was some assistance provided, you know, the Elected Committee supported that and the agency stepped up and provided that, it didn't look like it was, didn't look like it was enough obviously, if you're still suffering. And then you were put into, you know, micro-markets that are floundering and don't really have any boundaries as profitability and your cafeteria’s down. So, I mean, you've been getting the short end of the stick, you know, the way I see it, and I know you've been begging and asking and pleading. So, with that, said, the floor is yours.

Jackson: Yeah. Well, I, I guess I've been asking nicely. I don't know if I've been begging, but I have asked many times why, you know, things can't be divided up more, or what I could do to get more of a business. Yeah, I, I remember applying for the Portland State Building, and I never got it. And then eventually it went to a micro-market, and then, somehow, I tried for it again and got it. Come to find out that the micro-market is in the lobby, not where I thought it was, in the old kitchen area. So, then, when I took over, yeah, like, I had to get inventory paid for by the Commission. And then, the building opened to the public and people started stealing, happened a couple of times, but I didn't really know how to, you know, get, get any help with it. So, now I'm stuck paying back inventory still, months, but, you know, I got a while ago, but it, it hasn't been very profitable, at all, so... The BPA is, work is still busier than any of and then the state office building. But it's still not anywhere near what it used to be. Yeah, I've financially been struggling for three years, so... I, I don't know how else to be honest, or, you know, even more straightforward about it. But I, I would like more work, I would like to do something extra. I just don't know what that is. You know, there's no, there's not a lot of back and forth. And I know he might be busy, but it's just not. Yeah. It’s not a lot of back and forth, I guess, and it's hard to get something done when that never happens.

Morris: Steve?

Jackson: Yeah?

Morris: Hey, it's Eric. I, I have an update that I'll talk about in my report today, specifically about your location. So, just, I'll put a bookmark in that.

Jackson: Okay, yeah, I just, I.

A Stevenson: Hey, Randy?

Jackson: I just want people to know, I, I'm ready to work. And that's it. Yeah, go ahead. Go ahead, Art.

Hauth: Yes, Art?

A Stevenson: Well, first of all, I want to make a motion that the vending that has temporarily been assigned to Steve be, it be assigned to him permanently, because obviously, he definitely needs assistance, and I know there was vending tied to his locations temporarily. But I think now, it needs to be assigned to him permanently, and then we can work on the other stuff. But I think we need to take that step and then work on other things. So, I make that motion.

Hauth: Okay, motion's been made, do we have a second? I will second that.

Jackson: I have a comm--… Thank you.

Hauth: And as we go through the vote, Steve, remember, you have a conflict of interest.

Jackson: Sure, thank you, yeah.

Hauth: So, a motion has been made, a second has been made.

Bird: Up for discussion.

Hauth: Open discussion, you bet.

Bird: Jerry.

Hauth: Jerry, go ahead.

Bird: Yeah. Once again, it all comes back to all this unassigned vending machines that the program is sucking in and using it as they wish. Here Steve and Char and them are, are suffering, and other people. I mean, I don't, not just bring them out. But all them machines, why cannot they assign more vending machines to bring them up? Not self-service vending machines, full-service vending machines that they bring in. It, it just don't make sense to me. I mean, we're supposed to be businesspeople. I mean, they're sitting with all these, what, I don't know how many vending machines? I can't remember, but it's a lot. Why not assign 20, 30, 40, whatever it takes, to make a blind person make an average income! Better than them take it in and, and maybe use it to fight against us? I mean, I cannot believe it. I cannot understand it, other than we're down to 12 people. Used to have 38. Under Eric, we're down to 12. So, if you look at it, they have different intentions. Thank you.

Hauth: Yeah, thank you, thank you. I'm, Eric, do you know how many unassigned vending machines there are?

Morris: Randy, I don't, I don't know right off the top of my head.

Hauth: Yeah, I think last time I looked there were close to 300, maybe a little under. It looked like maybe $12,000 a month coming in. You know, I know people kind of wrap their, can't wrap their minds around why the money isn't being assigned. Well, the agency, you know, if we back up, the agency has included those funds in their budget, and they've included those, many of them, or all of them, under other funds. So, that's why we sit here and go, gosh, why aren't you just doing that? Why aren't you doing it? Well, most of those are kind of spoken for within the, the budget process. But it doesn't mean that that can't change. And it doesn't mean that those shouldn't be distributed and can't be. So, any other discussion before we take a vote?

Brown: Mr. Chair?

Webber: Can I ask a question?

Hauth: Hello?

Brown: This is Celyn. I don't know if I'm allowed to talk.

Hauth: Hi Celyn, yes you are.

Brown: Okay. My understanding was that someone couldn't make a motion for someone out to, to receive vending machines. That you had to actually go through the whole resume and bidding process, and it be open to everyone before you were officially assigned a location. Am I wrong? Do I just need to complain, and then I'll have vending machines assigned to me?

Hauth: Well, so, my understanding Celyn, is that there's no requirement or regulation that would prevent a motion being made to help support another manager. I know it's been done off and on for a number of years. Now, I think an established, I think, in, the, you know, and I, I don't know where you heard that, but that's my understanding. The, the vending machines I believe that Art made a motion for right now are already assigned to Steve, and have been for maybe over a year, but just on a temporary basis. So, I think what Art is suggesting now, is that those be at a permanent basis. But that's my understanding. So…

Brown: So, I thought, though, that he would, that those locations… I, I'm not… Okay, I, I guess because they are temporary, my understanding is that when those locations are available, like in a vending route situation, because I'm, I'm, I’m guessing these temporary locations are part of the unassigned vending and when they are actually turned into, into a route, then that is put into a, a document which is called a bid, and it's gone out to all managers, and everyone gets an opportunity to bid on it. And then, you know, the, the process goes from there, and someone eventually is awarded those vending machines. So, my understanding is that you, even though he has had those machines for a year, he can't, because it's a quote temporary agreement, then he can't be assigned those without actually going through the whole, like, bidding process and giving everyone the opportunity to bid on them, which I have been patiently waiting for, and I know everyone else has, too, for these unassigned machines to be put into a route so that we can all have an opportunity to bid on them. But was I misled somewhere? Is that not the case? So.

Hauth: Eric, you can Eh--, Eric, if you want to step in and answer that you can. But, you know, like just to share with you, I know there's been a lot of discussion around this, Celyn, and you know, nothing has really progressed or happened as far as developing routes or creating opportunities like that. I can tell you again, that these monies have been earmarked, and been, being used by the agency, as I understand it, and that's an improper use. So, I know Lewanda, and I know Art, and I know others have been trying to find a way to get these opportunities not only into a route, but into blind vendors’ hands so, it could help them. But to answer your question, I've tried to answer it the best way that I can, but maybe Eric can answer it or somebody, another board member after Eric can also weigh in. But Eric, go ahead.

Morris: Celyn, I think you're describing the, the bid process to the T. I mean, that's what's outlined in the rules is that, yeah… I think you described it to a T.

Brown: Okay, so, if that is the case, then you can't make a motion for someone to receive vending machines and have the whole board vote on it, and then say everyone says yes. And then voila, he has vending machines, it doesn't work that way. Like, you have to actually go through the bidding process in order to receive those, that vending route or machines, or whatever the case may be.

Hauth: Yeah.

Morris: Well, the prob--

Hauth: That's, that's for a facility. But those machines are not a facility or a unit. They're an additional, you know, whatever you call them, stimulus, or an add on or whatever. But there's been other vendors, like Char received some additional vending. I think Joe Becker did. I think some others did. So, those aren't facilities. Those have been, as my understanding, have been added on machines. So, if there's a process that governs that, I haven't seen it, Celyn. As far as you're talking about and what Eric said about the facility and the bid process, if there is a unit, if there is a facility, it has to go through the bid process. But these unassigned vendings that, $12,000 a month looks like the agency is collecting. You need to start being redistributed and directed, and I think that's what the motion is. But is there...

Morris: Randy, can I? Can I?

Hauth: For the, for the sake, for the sake of time, is there anyone else that would like to speak on this?

Webber: Well, Randy, this is Carole. I think I might be able to help Celyn out with what she was saying. The committee that was working on the unassigned vending, Lewanda did send out an email, asking everyone how would be the best way did they want to have it distributed evenly, or no they did not? And she did receive unanimous vote on that, and that everyone said that they wanted it distributed evenly to make sure all the managers got some of the unassigned vending. So, I didn't know if you knew that or not. So, I wanted to bring it up. And Lewanda, if you had anything else to add to that?

Brown: Yes, I did see that email.

Miranda: Yeah, it was, it was, it wasn't a unanimous. It was the majority vote.

Webber: Oh, sorry, majority vote.

Brown: I, I did see that email. Yes.

Hauth: Okay, let's go ahead, let's go ahead and move on. You know, Celyn, listen, I feel your frustration, and I don't know if there's an exact, you know, way or not? But again, it's my understanding what you were talking about, and what Eric confirmed is a facility or a unit, and it doesn't appear to me that these are facilities or units. They've already been assigned, and it wouldn't be right, or proper, or fair, I don't think, to try and take these away from Steve somewhere down the line when he's already suffering, and nor would it be fair to have you just wait and wait and wait, and not have a facility created. So, I mean, I wish I knew the right answer. You know, I'm trying to do my best I can to navigate this as well, as we all try and do. But there's been a motion made. There's been a second, and we'll go ahead and take a yea or nay, vote, Art?

A Stevenson: Yes.

Hauth: Lewanda?

Miranda: Yea.

Hauth: Carole?

Webber: Yes.

Hauth: Steve Jackson? Remember, you have a conflict.

Jackson: Yeah, yeah, I was just getting off mute. I have a conflict of interest, but I would vote yes.

Hauth: And I'll vote yes, as well, motion passes. Okay, what do we have next?

A Stevenson: Mr. Chair?

Bird: Randy?

A Stevenson: Mr. Chair?

Bird: Randy?

Hauth: Who's this? I can't hear who?

Bird: Jerry and Art.

Hauth: Okay.

Bird: I was just try, a quick one, Art.

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Thank you. One of our five things that you can use set-aside on is a, a fair minimum wage. Never been used by this program because they don't want to do it. If, if this agency wants to put out for bid a, a unit that will not make at least the minimum, not make at least an average income of blind vendors, they should not do it. And if they do, and, and, and the average income is, I don't know, $3000 a month. If you're only doing two, they must give you a thousand dollars out of their set-aside and their machines that they may take from us. So, once again, there is a process there, they just don't want, they want to ignore it. I mean, and who wants to bid on a place that you're not going to make no money unless you're guaranteed? So, they should not be putting anything up for bid that don't at least return a minimum. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Alright, Randy, this is Art.

Hauth: Go ahead, Art.

A Stevenson: Hey, Ce--, Celyn.

Hauth: Art, go ahead.

A Stevenson: What you need, yeah, can you hear me?

Hauth: Yes

A Stevenson: Can you hear me?

Brown: Yes, I can hear you.

Hauth: Yes.

A Stevenson: Okay, Celyn, Celyn!

Brown: Yes!

A Stevenson: Put in a request for it. Yeah, put in a request for assistance.

Brown: Okay.

A Stevenson: I mean, and, and the Elected Committee, we'll look at the request. And, you know, make a recommendation, I mean, I don't know how much money you're making, but if, if you're not making, you know, a decent living, we want, we want all the managers to make a decent living. We understand that your location, obviously, they all left, and you tried to do a good go of it, and of course, it didn't work out, and you had some vending tied to it, and you're getting the income from that. But put in the request for assistance, and then, we'll look at it, just like, you know, we know Steve was hurting, and he wasn't making a good amount of money, and we do that for all the managers. I mean, we don't, we don't want you not to make a living. You didn't get in this program not to make a living. So, put in a request for assistance and then see, I, I've done that, and, and a lot of managers have done that. And they've, the Elected Committee has made recommendations. And you know, we can definitely go from there. But you gotta let, you gotta let us know that you need assistance and then, and then, you know, we want everybody to make, make money. We don't want you not making money.

Brown: Okay.

A Stevenson: So, please do so. And we'll see what we can do.

Brown: Okay, thank you.

A Stevenson: You're welcome.

Hauth: Okay, what's next?

Webber: 50 machine mandate.

Hauth: Okay, I think this might be Art's. I do want to, I do want to say, I know we've talked about this a million times, you know, too, but I can tell you that going forward, I hope that we can work on a better system of delivery than this 50 machine mandate, that is being mandated by the agency. It creates, you know, it creates hardships on many managers. Being an independent businessperson should be about choice. Every situation is different, right? So, we've talked about it till the cows come home. But I can tell you that in the last, in the last year and a half, I have been the only manager pushed out there and I've been disciplined, and you know, I've done it so, even though I'm arguing with the agency because I think it's a failed and flawed delivery model, it's costing the agency a bunch of money, and it's costing me money. But I've been out there, right, and I've been doing it. But I haven't seen, not that I want this, I haven't seen any other managers getting disciplined. I haven't seen any other managers being forced out. So, maybe the agency understood they weren't acting properly, even though they acted improperly to me, I believe. Maybe they learned that they needed to look at things differently, and the ADA does matter, and secondary disabilities do matter. And it doesn't mean you just have to retire or leave the program. It means that you need to be accommodated to be able to exist and survive and be successful within the program. That's what it means. So, anyway, Art, I believe this was yours. So, go ahead.

A Stevenson: Well, Randy, you know, we made, we made a recommendation last time that this, this 50-machine mandate go by the wayside. And I, I don't think we got a proper response from the agency concerning that. And so, you know, again, I would like, like to know, you know, and as Jerry said, you know, there's a, there wasn't a 50-machine mandate, and we requested that the 50-machine mandate be dropped, basically, because, they're and, and to my knowledge, there was no vote by the Elected Committee about a 50-machine mandate. There was no policy or rule run by RSA that it was okay to force upon the managers a 50-machine mandate. And obviously, the law dictates if there is going to be a policy that, you know, number one, the Elected Committee does get to vote on that because it does affect the overall administration of the program, whether anybody wants to admit it or not, because a 50-machine mandate could cause a blind licensed manager to make less money than if they were subcontracting it. I think enough people have testified to the fact that they are losing money, more money by having a 50-machine mandate. And, and so, again, you know, there shouldn't be a 50-machine mandate, it should be, you know, if, if, if there is a 50-machine mandate, then it has to comply with the law, it needs to be beneficial to the managers, and you know, not take away money from the blind licensed manager, but enhance the money that the managers making. So, I guess I, I, I still want to know, you know, was this a, one, number one, I know the Elected Committee never voted to have a 50-machine mandate and number two, that, that policy was never to my knowledge okayed by RSA. Which anything that we do has to be okayed by RSA, so, I guess I want clarification, number one. Well, let me just say, again, I make a motion that there not be a 50-machine mandate because it could be detrimental to the blind licensed managers.

Hauth: Motion's been made. Is there a second?

Miranda: I don't understand the motion.

A Stevenson: You don't under--. I, I make a motion that there is, that, there is no 50-machine mandate unless the Elected Committee votes that there be a 50-machine mandate, because obviously, it's not beneficial to the blind licensed managers. And, and so, I want to, for on the record, state as the Elected Committee that, you know, there not be a 50-machine mandate because it's not necessarily profitable to the managers, Lewanda, but it also hasn't been okayed by RSA, either. It's just something out there that has been, that's been floated by the agency. And so, until…

Hauth: Hey, Art, I've got, I've got to go back, I've got to go back in. Please take the meeting over. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Okay. So, anyways, it's to, there should not be a 50-machine mandate, Lewanda, because it's not beneficial to the blind licensed managers, and it hasn't been okayed as policy by RSA.

Miranda: Okay, but I thought that we already all agreed that there wasn't one, and that we already voted on it. But okay.

A Stevenson: Well, I just, I want the agency finally recognize that there is no 50 machine mandate, because as a member of the Elected Committee, I don't think it's beneficial to the blind licensed manager. So, that's why I’m making the motion that there not be a 50-machine mandate, not only because it isn't going to be beneficial to the blind licensed managers, but it hasn't been, it hasn't been okayed by RSA, and like Jerry said, you know, there's these other parameters. And so, the 50-machine mandate should be gone, period, it should not be recognized. And the agency should do that...

Jackson: Can I just say something real fast, also, Art?

A Stevenson: Okay?

Jackson: Let me say something real quickly.

A Stevenson: What?

Jackson: They're not, let me say something, it's Steve Jackson. They're, they're, Commission for the Blind isn't implipicating [sic] the 50-machine thing uniformly. So, that's another reason it shouldn't be going on, because it's not fair, just for Randy to have to do it. I don't think that's fair.

A Stevenson: No, I'm, well, I agree a hundred percent.

Jackson: We should take a vote too, right. Maybe…

A Stevenson: And well, I, I, I agree a hundred percent, but that's why I'm making the motion.

Jackson: Yeah, let’s put it to a vote. Yeah, I agree.

A Stevenson: There should not be a 50 mandate and no manager, no, no manager should be forced to do so.

Jackson: Yeah. There's no business plan that says it's gonna work. There's no proof that says it's going to work.

A Stevenson: Exactly!

Jackson: Right, yeah. I just think it’s [inaudible].

A Stevenson: So, but anyways, that's why, that's why I make, that's why I made the motion. So.

Jackson: Yeah.

Miranda: I just didn't understand the motion. So, I got it.

A Stevenson: Did we get a sec--. Oh, okay, you got it now?

Miranda: Yeah, thanks.

A Stevenson: No, that's okay. So, it's been moved, and did you second it, Lewanda, or, or did Steve second it? Who seconded it? Anybody?

Jackson: I'll second it, I'll second it.

A Stevenson: Okay.

Jackson: Steve seconds it.

A Stevenson: Been moved and seconded. So, any discussion?

Jackson: Do we want to do the vote?

Bird: Jerry.

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Okay. Once again, I just heard from Eric Morris earlier that they decided not, not with the board participation, that they got two billion dollars, and they were just going to disperse that to five vending routes. Well, how is that fair with the rest of you? Shouldn't you guys be able to get some vending machines on that government, whatever it's called? You know, they didn't give it to, it's just to take, just to give to vending routes. I mean, you know like, well that makes sense. Well, it does not. That's not fair. For them to just to say, oh, we're gonna give five vending machines, 50 vending machines to only these vending routes and, and to heck with the rest of you. You know, because that's what we want to do. We all know why they done that, we do. And they, like, they was gonna march down the freeway and just make us do it, like, you know. So, therefore, there never was a 50-machine mandate, and for Eric to even suggest that we just wanted to do it between 50, between five vending routes, is not a fair and equitable for the rest of the people. So, I also...

A Stevenson: I agree, Jer.

Bird: Okay, well, the thing is, is oh, well, I'll leave it at that, that it, it everyone should get, be able to have some. They need to, they need to have some to provide to people that aren't, aren't able to meet the 30-hour work week. They can't just give them all to five people. What, how fair is that? It's because they’re, they wanted to force five of us to do what they wanted. Thank you.

A Stevenson: No, I agree, Jerry. Jerry, Jerry, I agree wholeheartedly, and we know why they wanted the machine, to do it, so they could get the matching funds to spend on other stuff, and of course, you know, we were never consulted with all that stuff. Of course, the Elected Committee's never consulted on budgetary stuff. The agency just goes around willie dillie [sic] doing whatever the heck they want to, whenever they want to, etc., etc. But I, I agree, you know. If, if another manager wants to do some of their machines, then, hey, let them have at it. It should be, it should be, you know, a blind licensed manager’s personal choice, I mean, right now, who in the heck can afford product and it keeps going up and up and up, and you know, it gets harder and harder with our purchasing power to be able to get things at a decent price and make a profit. But anyways, so, anyways, it was moved and seconded, is there any further discussion? Okay, take the roll call vote, Lewanda?

Miranda: Yes.

A Stevenson: Steve?

Jackson: Yes.

A Stevenson: Carole?

Webber: Yes.

A Stevenson: I don't know if Randy's here, but if he is, he could chime in. I vote yes, as well. So, again, hopefully, you know, this fallacy will be ended, and you know, everybody has [inaudible} be treated fairly and equitably.

Bird: One more comment, Art.

A Stevenson: Yes, sir?

Bird: Let's ask Eric how much of that money's left? And not just off the top of his head that he don't know, but he should know exactly how much money of that two million dollars is left to provide people with equipment.

Morris: Jerry, that's a good question. We've purchased all the vending machines using that money. So, the money has been expended.

Bird: Oh, you’ve spent over two million dollars on vending machines? And where are, are these machines? Sitting in storage?

Morris: They're, they're in the warehouse. Yep.

Bird: Oh, okay. For how long have they set there?

Morris: For a while now, depending on which vending route we're talking about.

Bird: Are we talking years?

Morris: Some of them. Yeah.

Bird: Okay. Are, are you paying rent on them machines? Storage rent?

Morris: We are.

Bird: Okay, does that seem like a, a smart business thing to do when there is no mandate? Answer, please!

Morris: Well, Jerry… If, if…

Bird: As a business minded person.

Morris: As a business minded person, of course not. I expected people to take the equipment and go out and work with it. So, yeah.

Bird: Yeah, but it was your decision.

A Stevenson: Yeah.

Bird: To force five people to do 50 and the heck with the rest of 'em.

Morris: I…

Bird: It was, it was to crush five people, Eric. But thank you for your comment.

Morris: Yeah, Jerry. I, I appreciate your narrative, because that's, that's not the accurate narrative. And I know you guys keep saying it over and over and over again to try to reinforce it. But that's not an accurate narrative. So.

Bird: Okay, what's accurate? Please, please tell us.

Morris: I already told you about it.

Bird: We wanna know.

Morris: Jerry, I already told you about four--.

Bird: Well, tell us again, would you, Eric? Can you please tell us again? I have a bad memory.

Morris: I’m going… Jerry, I, I don't need to continue repeating myself, like some people do.

Bird: Well, that's a bad comment. You are the director, and we need to know where, what happened.

A Stevenson: Well, I… Hey, Jer, Jer.

Bird: But okay.

A Stevenson: I, I think. I think…

Bird: Off the top of my head, I'm done.

A Stevenson: Yeah. I think the executive director had something to do with it, too. So, you know, anyways. Okay, so that, that motion carried. What's next, Carole?

Webber: We, we have one more item. SFFC coupons.

Morris: Art, that's, that's my issue to talk about today.

A Stevenson: Oh, that's the prison. Okay, Eric.

Morris: Alright. Thank you. Yeah, SF, SFFC is the South Fork Forest Camp, is what it is. It's on Highway Six on your way out to the coast. So, just a brief overview of the, and there's several of you guys on here who have prison systems that run under the coupon contract that we have with DOC. This is one of those locations. And so, just so everybody else that's in, in the meeting, can understand. Part of the process with the Department of Corrections is that we sell the Department of Corrections coupons, which is essentially cash for inmates in custody to purchase soda through the vending machines in the different correctional facilities. They can't have cash. So, this system was set up, I think in the early 2000s, 2008, 2009 somewhere in there. And we have several facilities that run under it. I can't think of right off the top of my head how many, probably half a dozen facilities that run under that contract. And so, this is one of those facilities. Historically, it's been a very difficult facility to operate, because it is in the, pretty much the middle of nowhere compared to a lot of our facilities. During the pandemic, this facility was serviced off and on by the former assigned manager there. There was a, a hand over between the subcontractor that was there previously to the current subcontractor. Basically, they, they bought, one, one company bought the other one out, and as the new subcontractor came in, several years after the other one had been servicing and started servicing that location last Fall, flash forward six months later. What has happened, during that time period, the Department of Corrections bought a large amount of coupons from the prior subcontractor and proceeded to sell those coupons during the pandemic. So, what happens is that, it’s a location’s not being serviced the prisoners are still buying, I believe it's 25 to 50 coupons a week. So, they continue to purchase all those coupons, but had no way to, to buy anything with them, except for trade amongst theirselves, you know, doing whatever people would do with those if you weren't buying something. But it's basically a currency. So, as the new subcontractor came in over about a six-month period, was servicing the location, is collecting coupons. But what happens with that, is that if the system is not, is not balanced out correctly. Now, now, we're in a situation where the subcontractor has about 7500 coupons that DOC doesn't want to purchase back yet, because they’re, they only buy coupons when they need them to sell to the, to the inmates in custody. So, we have this situation where the, the subcontractor eventually said, listen, I, I can't continue to service it without being paid and has stopped servicing that location. So, Department of Corrections came to us because we have the contract, and said, hey, that, you know, you need to start servicing again. So, the, the real problem is in the balancing of that situation, you know, balancing, making the vendor whole, which, if he had been, if he had sold the coupons to DOC begin with, like all the other locations we have in the contract, it wouldn't be an issue. It continues to function fine at many facilities. But this one specifically that hand over process several years ago, and then the compression of not being serviced during the pandemic, has created this deficit. So, I wanted to let everybody know about that. I don't have an answer for it right now. We're trying to fix this, fix the problem working with the vendor, working with DOC. But I wanted to make you aware of it, because I'm sure that eventually we'll come back and have some more discussion about that.

Bird: Art.

A Stevenson: So, is the vendor getting paid?

Morris: Well, Art, that's, that’s what we're really, really trying…

A Stevenson: Eric?

Morris: Art, that's what we're working on right now. DOC has bought some coupons from him. And so, the problem really is, he has, I believe it's 7500 coupons right this second. They've purchased I think 2500, if I remember correctly, from him. But the, the way the system works, and it, if it's a little baffling to you, don't feel bad, because it is confusing when it's not working correctly. So, DOC, Department of Corrections, thinks that, you know, they should probably sell about 2500 coupons over the next year. So, so, there's several years of backed up sales that haven't been, you know, processed because of the compression and the pandemic not being serviced. So, he's sitting on all these coupons. He's provided the service. And so, we're really looking at to see, is there something we can do? Is there something that he can do for, with the former person he bought the company from, and you know, that kind of situation. But I wanted to let you guys know because it is, this location is one subset, one location in that bigger DOC contract.

Bird: Jerry.

A Stevenson: Okay, go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Isn't this a federal facility?

Morris: No, Jerry, it's a state DOC.

Bird: Well, I thought you meant up at Sheridan.

Morris: No. No, this is, this is that South Fork. It's on the, the Wilson River highway if you're heading over towards Tillamook. Sheridan's on 99 heading to Lincoln City. It’s, so they're both kind of out in the middle of nowhere, so I can see how it might get a little confusing.

Bird: Well, where are they getting coupons to purchase pop?

Morris: Well, that's, that's the thing, they bought a whole bunch of them back in, I believe it was 2019. They bought close to $5,000 worth. But what happened between that period and now, nothing was really sold to them over that period. So, there's a whole bunch of coupons kind of just sitting there waiting to be used. And then with the turnover of the sub, there's that gap where, essentially, is… The only thing I can really try to analyze with it, is the previous subcontractor didn't tell the new subcontractor that there was all this liability sitting out there, because they'd already received the money. That's the cool thing about this program, you get paid upfront for it, as you guys all know. So, that's why it's, it's, it's not an awesome situation.

Bird: I know. So, have you talked to the other agency? I mean, these, these places, places still got to be getting pop. Where, where's it coming from? At 15 a month, or whatever you just said, is they're, they're going around us.

Morris: If they’re, they’re...

Bird: If they're getting their beverage.

Morris: But they're, but they're not, Jerry.

Bird: It's your duty to make. Huh?

Morris: Jerry, they’re not, they’re not getting anything up there, that's the problem is there's no, there's nothing being sold out there.

Bird: Well, well, well, why? Don't we have priority?

Morris: We, yeah, we do, Jerry, but the thing is that the, the subcontractor that was servicing it, like from the Fall until, like, February of this year, was servicing it, providing services. But there's this big buildup of coupons up there, because they continue to sell the coupons to the inmates. They can purchase them, but they just have no way to buy anything with them, because there was no product being delivered.

Bird: Well.

A Stevenson: So, the other, the other, the other subcontractor then ripped off this other guy then basically, huh, Eric?

Morris: That's.

A Stevenson: He got the money for it.

Morris: Yeah, that's my, that's, that’s my analysis, Art.

A Stevenson: Well, right. So.

Bird: If it was us, you'd throw us out of the program.

A Stevenson: Well, the guy, that, that guy took the other guy which, which is a shame, and he probably ought to go after him for reimbursement on money that he got paid when the other guy, you know, is the one that sold the product and stuff. But that sounds like a legal thing for this new contractor to go after this other guy for. Yeah. Keeping the money instead of turning it over to this other guy, so he wouldn't have lost money, but hopefully it will get ir--, ironed out. So, Eric.

Bird: We need to get Sean on that, lots of time. We need to get Sean Brady on that. You know, it's, it's like stealing from the blind.

A Stevenson: Yeah, really. Okay. Eric, can you give us an update on what's going on over at parole and probation with…

Morris: Oh! Yeah, are, are you talking about the, yeah. I can talk about that, Art.

A Stevenson: Yeah, I'm talking about the meal, the meal, the meal service, can you? Just so everybody knows, I, I do the vending machines at parole and probation. And I went in there the other day, and here was this refrigerator, and this company had come in and is sales, selling meals to people in the building that are supposedly healthy meals and stuff like that and, and put it, put it in the location. And so, I checked with OCB to see if they had done a survey and informed the agency that hey, we have a need, and you know, we'll, it, it'll definitely work here. And so, we would like you to provide this service. They, they didn't do it. They just installed the machine and they're selling these pre-made meals and we didn't, we didn't get anything to do with it. Now, I had mentioned to Eric that hey, if they had a desire for some different products, you know, cold, cold products like milk and yogurts, and all those kind of things, perhaps we, we could have put a cold food machine there if, you know, it would have supported it. But to put this other thing in without contacting the agency and, and saying, hey, we would like this service provided to us, we did a survey of the building, and I don't think they did a survey of the building, because I talked to some of the people in the building. They just kinda put this machine in there and started saying, hey, you know, we'll provide you with these healthy meals. Put it in the refrigerator, and if you, if you buy seven of them, we'll, we'll deliver them to you for free. Now, everybody knows that nothing's for free, and that was in the built in cost of the meals. But anyways, so, I contacted Eric and hopefully we're going to get an update on, you know, what's going on here and why we weren't, you know, consulted before this new, I call it a, a micro, a micro-market trying to set up, because you can buy the meals and they'll deliver the meals, and then you get the meals out of this refrigerator. Evidently, they're supposed to have your names on it or something. But anyways, Eric, can you, trying to let us know what's going on there concer--, concerning this issue?

Morris: Yeah, Art, I can, and when we can just call this my, my report for the day, because that's, I think, the next agenda item. But I'll, I'll just add that into my report. So, the company that Art's talking about is a company called All In Meals, and they're, they're providing as Art was describing. They have a cooler there with a small, just a small little, like, just not much bigger than your hand, kiosk to basically pay for your item when you come in, I guess. And so, this location at paro--, parole and probation what we found out, it took a little time to chase down, with Marion County what actually happened. From what I understand, the sheriff's department set it up. I have a scope of work that they sent us, that it’s part of the contract that they have with this company, and the sheriff's department is essentially pleading ignorance that they should have came to us. I, I'm going to hold judgment on that, because I, I'm not quite confident that that's accurate. But it's clearly something that they should have came to us first, and I, I know the first question they're going to ask, and that's probably why they sent a scope of work is, do you want to do this? Is I'm sure what they're going to ask and like Art brought up when we talked last week is, this could be a real good opportunity for a vending facility manager as a, because it's, it's only equipment wise, it's a cooler and a small little kiosk. So, if a person was able to, you know, set up a ghost kitchen somewhere, or have another manager preparing meals and doing that kind of a system, it could be an opportunity. Also, to Art's point, how profitable is it depending on the building size and stuff, are all questions we don't have the answer to, because we're not running that business model. We've held off contacting that company, till we had a chance to talk specifically, Art, with you. But that's what we know right this second. Marion County knows that they shouldn't have done that without coming to us. And I, I'm just kind of waiting to talk to you, Art, specific. That’s why I was trying to hook up with you yesterday to see what direction we want to go from there.

Bird: Art?

A Stevenson: Well again. Well again, you know, as I said, you know, the law is pretty specific. They know that we have the priority. They're not, they know that they're supposed to do a survey and give us their findings, and then if the findings are positive, then of course we do something about it. But if the findings are not, you know, profitable, which and you know, hey, we got that. Well, anyways, I'll hold reservations on them, pleading ignorance, because we do lots of business with Marion County sheriff and stuff. But anyways.

Bird: Art.

A Stevenson: Yeah, go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Yeah, I got a question for…

[Unidentified]: Go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Thank you. Can you hear me?

Morris: Yeah, we can hear you, Jerry.

A Stevenson: Yeah, we hear you.

Bird: Oh. Okay. let's see, when was it we got that priority? 2017? Oooh, what is that, six years ago? And we just kept getting ran over. And how many people we have in our program now, I understand 12. So, common sense tells me there's something going on that the agency isn't supporting our, lost the words. Our priority, which is supposed to be our big thing, you know, we got that. But and now, we just keep letting people roll over us. And I think that's, that's the fault of our staff. I mean, I don't see anywhere that you've had Sean, or any attorney general, write them letters and say, hey, we've got this priority. You know, it seems just weird to me. It's almost like they're scared to and, and it was like, almost like, for naught. You got a priority, but no one follows it. Then what’s it matter? And who, who, who is there to enforce it? Apparently, no one. And I'm really disgusted about being down to 12. It's really be a, it's a good thing to go out with 12 people. I think their intention is to have zero. Thank you.

Morris: So, just.

A Stevenson: Okay. Well.

Morris: Art, can I?

A Stevenson: Let me, let me, let me go on the I, I don't want to say defense. But I do know a letter was sent to all agencies concerning the priority and what they were supposed to do. Conduct surveys. Now, I could also state that Sheriff, the county jail is out of compliance. They have vending machines that should be ours that still aren't ours. And now, we get another instance of this. So, obviously, all this stuff should be on the record, on the records, and just because they have a turnover of employees of what or whatever, it still should be agency, or whatever you want to call them, the sheriff's department should have this on the record, on the process for vending services. So, I do know the letter was sent out. I don't like them pleading ignorance, especially since they still got vending machines which, somebody's getting the money for 'em, and I know we aren't, which is again, a violation of the law. And so, hopefully, this ignorance thing is going to, the agency is going to nip it in the bud. And, you know, the state statutes are clear, and people should be held accountable for not following the proper procedure, and I'll, I'll just leave it at that. But we do have to get a, a handle on this, and by God, if we break the law, ignorance is no excuse. And by goodness sakes, it shouldn't be an excuse for somebody that's supposed to enforce the law like the sheriff's department is.

Bird: Art?

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Jerry, and then…

Bird: [inaudible] Okay.

A Stevenson: We gotta do this report thing. So, yeah.

Bird: All righty. Well, I'm kinda wondering about, you know, our, our prisons where the agency is letting, I guess, think that inmates have a priority over ours. And, and, and we'll just let them do that. I don't think the priority, when I looked at, they're exempt, and I don't think that this agency stands up for us in these prisons and let them make us lose money or sell them pop, the products at a cheaper price, and then we pay 11%, and then we pay them 5%. You know, what is going on? So, I think you need to tell them they don't have priority. They'll do it until, till you stop them. Apparently, this agency is not willing to stop them. Seems to be only their own people they'll stop. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Well, Jerry, yeah, this is a county jail, Jerry, you know, and obviously, they're supposed to enforce the law. They're supposed to know the law. I know for a fact, that Eric sent out a form letter about the priority and what needs to be done, and all those kind of things, and, and they most definitely need to comply with the law. And like I said, I know there's several vending machines inside the county jail, that we still are not receiving the money from. And, and you're right about that. That, that needs to stop also. I mean, the law is the law. The priority is the priority and ignorance is no excuse for not complying with it, especially when all this stuff is on the record. And everybody knows, you know, like I said, over at Parole and Probation, which has a division of the sheriff’s administration there, that we have the priority. And all of a sudden, oh, well, we didn't know about that priority when we, we have the vending machines sitting right there. So, anyways. Thank you for that, Eric. And hopefully, finally, we'll get compliance by the sheriff, because they have an obligation to comply with the law, just like everybody else does. Period.

Morris: Yeah, Art, Art.

A Stevenson: Okay.

Bird: That's true, that's true.

A Stevenson: Yeah.

Bird: But if, if no one enforces it, like our agency, who is responsible to do that, then it just lies, it lies like a dead dog. And.

A Stevenson: Well, I, I'm not going to disagree with you.

Bird: [inaudible] Okay? Well, the agency is our only means to tell the, these, these properties that no, we have priority. When they don't say nothing, and they don't use it. We, we are out and, and, and I think that they know that, hey, just tell them we're not going to do it. You know, and the agency, just okay, we're not gonna get our AG on it and tell you that it's a priority, you have to. So, I don't know. It comes back to our agency.

Morris: Hey, Art?

A Stevenson: I agree. I hope action is going to be taken. Go ahead, Eric.

Morris: Yeah, I'll follow up with you offline on how you want to deal with them specifically at that location, because my guess is, they're going to come back and say, can you provide that type of service? And obviously, like you spoke to we'll have to survey and see if that's viable or not. But that's, that's going to be my guess. But yeah, of course, we have the priority. This is something they shouldn't have done, and we'll be, we'll be talking with them. I had a, two more things.

Bird: Maybe, maybe our next director will do it.

Morris: Maybe, Jerry.

A Stevenson: Maybe. Okay. So, anyways. Let's.

Morris: Art, I just had a couple. I had a couple of things on my report to talk about real quick, and then we can wrap it up.

A Stevenson: Alright.

Morris: So, so, yesterday, I met with GSA. And GSA, as everybody knows, is the federal landlord for federal properties, and breaking news! GSA has determined that they don't have a lot of people coming back to their locations, which is across the nation, including our state and the different federal locations. Specifically, Edith Green is a big one and the Bonneville Power Administration building where Steve's at. At Bonneville Power, they delegate authority over to Bonneville Power to run, like, stuff that we do, the food concessions, the cafeteria, and things like that, the contract can take care of that. But specifically, GSA is coming out with guidance that will allow Randolph-Sheppard program to use catering, catering's stuck in my head all of a sudden. We could do catering, Door Dash, and those kind of online deliveries from cafeterias inside federal buildings, is what they're proposing. And what's happened, many different states where they have some really prime real estate, like in a downtown, like downtown Seattle is one of them that they have a really good spot where there's no other food service around. They made this work. So, GSA is kind of catching up with it. So, the thought is, and I'm not sure if BPA wants to do this, they want food service to come back, but the idea would be you could open up the kitchen there as a, a food service option that would be able to feed the few people that are there, and like BPA has a couple of hundred people, on average it sounds like, but you could also provide food to people coming from outside. So, Door Dash people or people just ordering online and coming and picking it up. So, they're really expanding their thoughts around, what are the options? And similarly, like at the Edith Green building, a lot of it's going to depend on the actual building management itself, and what they do and don't want and will allow for security reasons. As everybody, everybody knows those two locations are high security locations with TSA plus type of security. But it's really a, a complete change of attitude from GSA and what they'll allow us to do. So, theoretically, we could start the kitchen back up at BPA, which everybody knows is a tremendous kitchen service there, and provide meals to not only the building, but other people, too. So, if that made sense financially, of course. But I just learned about that yesterday. So, I'm just putting that out there. The other thing on my list, the Q2 report, the quarterly report, I'll be working on that to get that to you guys next week. And then, as Jerry brought up, my last day with the agency will be August 4th, so, I expect that we'll be able to provide some kind of a, a continuation timeline in the next week or so for who's going to be taking over in my place, either temporarily or permanently, or whatever, and the process moving forward in the next week or so. And that's my report.

A Stevenson: So, Eric.

Morris: Yeah.

A Stevenson: With, with BPA, you know, and I know they do this in some buildings, and, and it works well is to develop a teaming partner that would actually do the service that the blind licensed manager would oversee, like a Dunkin Donuts, a Chick-Fil-A ,or, or something like that. Have you discussed this at all with the BPA building? Because I know it works successfully in, in lots of locations, and something, something like that would work with that, especially if you got people that can come in and use the services. So, have you discussed this with them about developing a well-known service that the blind licensed manager would oversee, like is done in several locations across the country?

Morris: Art, Art, I haven't yet, because, literally, I think, BPA was briefed earlier in the week, and we were briefed the other day, so, we haven't had that conversation yet. It makes a lot of sense, I mean, Dunkin Donuts I don't think's out here, but you know, Chipotle or something, something like that would make a lot of sense.

A Stevenson: Well, you got, you got Chick-Fil-A, you got Popeye’s. You got all sorts of different well-known things up in that area.

Morris: Yeah.

A Stevenson: That, that we could team with, that definitely might work. And so, I just want to make sure that, that, that we pursue that and, and make sure that we're, we're willing to do something like that, because yeah, there is a kitchen area and stuff like that. And so, the possibilities could, you know, could be definitely good. And, and I do know that there's lots of managers across the country that manage a location like that and, and make some good money at it, especially if you can bring them in from outside, too.

Morris: Yeah, I agree.

A Stevenson: Okay, that's my comment on that.

Brown: Eric, Celyn.

A Stevenson: Okay, well, I just wanted to make sure we were working on that. Okay.

Morris: Yes, Celyn.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Brown: So, is that okay, Art, if I talk? I just want to make sure.

A Stevenson: Yeah, go ahead.

Brown: Okay, okay, anyway. So, the GSA thinks that like Door Dash and those type of companies will go through security to pick up food, like they'll, you know, basically derobe to get into the building to pick up the food to leave again?

Morris: So, so, Celyn, I had the same, I had the same reaction when he was describing it. It's, you know, it sounds like some GSA buildings are, are like, just basically open to the public, basically.

Brown: Oh, okay.

Morris: Like, like Edith Green. The thing I was thinking about in your location, you have that side, like, emergency exit right there, that goes right up to the sidewalk. So, it sounds like what we'll have to do, and I was going to circle back with you next week about it. We'll have to talk to what they call the Security Committee, which I don't really know who that is in the building? To see what they would be willing to, I don't know if that's maybe setting up a Door Dash station right on the other side of security that you could just take it out to and say, here you go, or what that looks like. And I, I, I only know about Door Dash from a consumer perspective. So, I don't know the back end of that, which obviously, we'll learn in the next couple of weeks. But that's, that's what I was thinking, and especially down in your neck of the woods, too, there's, it's been a while since I've been out there. But there's not much down in the downtown core anymore. So. If I didn't, you know…

Brown: Yeah, and…

Morris: Providing something different.

A Stevenson: That's the big problem.

Brown: Well, I.

A Stevenson: That's the big problem. Not much down there anymore.

Brown: There are, there are, like food businesses. But I, I have had people come in, because I am open now just two days a week, and you know, I've had people that are in the building that have said, you know, hey, you know, there's nobody in this area that serves hamburgers. So, you want people to stay in the building, serve hamburgers and I was like, okay. And so far, it's been working pretty good. I mean my first day, I sold 24 burgers. I couldn't believe it, but I only sold 10 burgers yesterday, so, you know, it, it's gonna vary, of course, throughout the summer. But I just, I mean, when you come into a federal building, I mean, you pretty much have to strip down, to get through security.

Morris: Yeah, that's.

Brown: So, I, I don't know. I can check and find out what the name of the security company is for the Edith Green Building, But having said that, also, we were discussing that emergency exit yesterday, and I, I thought that it led to the sidewalk. But my daughter, who was working with me yesterday, she said, no, mom, it's part of the patio, you can't get to the…

Morris: Oh.

Brown: …from the sidewalk, so, I mean, I can double check and ask as well because I know it is, there is like a double door. There's the door that goes to the building, and then there's a door on the outside of it, which is like a gated area. So, you have to go in that door all first, so, it would be…

A Stevenson: Okay.

Brown: I would go out of but anyway, I will, I'll just give you a jingle, and we can talk more about it. So.

Morris: That sounds good, Celyn.

Brown: Thank you though, Eric, I appreciate your report.

A Stevenson: Okay, so, is there any other business?

Webber: I have a remark to make. Please.

A Stevenson: Okay, go ahead.

Webber: I just want to thank Eric, for bringing forth this information, because from the sound of it, it might bring a really good opportunity for Celyn and for Steve, as well. So, you know, I mean, it sounds pretty good. So, it's, it's wonderful that you're willing to work and see what you can get done with that, I appreciate it.

Bird: Jerry Bird, got a comment.

A Stevenson: Go ahead, Jerry.

Bird: Alright, I want to tell Eric, good luck on your, on your new career and I don't know how it's going to work. If everything gets reset or it's just delayed, for when this happens. But I also want to say, as my closing, is one of my two prayers have been answered.

A Stevenson: Okay. alright. So, anyways. Yeah. Good luck, good luck, Eric.

Morris: Hey, I appreciate Jerry praying for me.

A Stevenson: So, we will. Well, well, will we be receiving the report from somebody else, since you have 30 days, and you ain't going to be here in 30 days.

Morris: Art, Art, are you talking about like the motions and stuff?

A Stevenson: Yeah.

Morris: Yeah, I'll get all that squared away before I go. You'll get it from me.

A Stevenson: Okay, alright, okay, well, everybody. Thanks for showing up and participate, oh. Hey, did Harold ever get a new... I got to ask this real quick, did Harold, ever get a new thing so he can do his route? And did, did you get that squared away? Are we declaring lemon law and all that kind of stuff?

Morris: Yeah, Art, they're, they're working directly with, I, I believe it's the RAM company to get that squared away. It's… Yeah. That's, that's just not a good situation. But yeah, I think that's the path they're going to end up going down.

A Stevenson: Well, well, the thing is, okay, I mean, you know, that is a piece of equipment which belongs to the agency, and the agency should make sure that, you know, the blind licensed manager has a piece of equipment to, to be able to function and do their, you know, do their route.

Miranda: Art.

A Stevenson: And so, hopefully, yeah?

Miranda: Art, I talked to Harold, and it's, they have it all worked out, and he's been working with Vinnie and stuff. So, it's all worked out. For, for the fair and all. Now, yeah.

A Stevenson: Alright. Okay.

Bird: Art, one more question Jer--, Jerry.

A Stevenson: What? Jerry.

Bird: I do have a brand-new RAM. It's all set up for vending that I'm willing to sell to the agency, and Harold can have it soon as I'm paid.

A Stevenson: Well, I think he's got one, Jerry, but that's, that's a good thought, anyways. Okay, well, everybody have a good weekend coming up. Stay cool, and we'll catch you at the next meeting. Night everybody.

Morris: Good night, everybody.

Webber: Good night.

**Motions passed:**

1. **“…that approve 7-6-21 minutes as recorded**

Proposed: Miranda. Seconded: Webber. Passed. Yeas: A Stevenson, D Stevenson, Hauth, Miranda and Webber

1. **“…that** **Steve be awarded his temporary sites as permanent ones**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: Hauth. Passed. Yeas: A Stevenson, Jackson, Hauth, Miranda, Webber

1. **“…that there not be a 50 machine mandate**

Proposed: A Stevenson. Seconded: Jackson. Passed. Yeas: A Stevenson, Miranda, Webber, Jackson