**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM OF OREGON BECC REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, May 25th, 2023**

**3:00 PM-5:00 PM**

OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

**Agenda**

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Hauth
   1. Roll call.
   2. Disposition of last meeting minutes.
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.
   1. Unassigned vending.
4. OLD BUSINESS.
   1. Discussion and possible denouncement of agencies violating actions.
   2. ”Self Service Initiative” update.
   3. Unincurred business expenses.
   4. Electronic payment for set-aside and other payments by VFM’s, as an accommodation due to accessibility concerns around paper checks.
   5. Establish sub-committee to work with the agency on site-visits for (all) facilities.
5. NEW BUSINESS.
   1. Survivors policy.
   2. ADA training and procedure, where has it been?
   3. BEP quarterly financial reports.
   4. Status of coastal and Albany vending routes.
6. CHAIRMAN HAUTH/DIRECTOR MORRIS REPORTS.

ADJOURNMENT.

**Transcript**

A Stevenson: Okay, so call the meeting to order. Take roll call. Randy was here, but he's not here now. Art Stevenson's here, Vice-Chair. Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: Yes.

A Stevenson: Here. Steve Jackson's here. Carole's here. Okay, that's all the Elected Committee.

D Stevenson: Derrick's here.

A Stevenson: I did, oh, I, said, Derrick, yeah. Derrick Stevenson's here, too. Okay, then I heard Char.

Hawkins: Yes, sir.

A Stevenson: Charlotta's here. Harold Young's here. I don't know if I heard any other managers?

Miranda: Nope.

A Stevenson: And then of course Eric's here. And then do we have any guests, want to be recognized?

Babcock: Michael Babcock.

A Stevenson: Hello, Michael.

Babcock: Hello, Art.

Miranda: Welcome.

A Stevenson: Nice to hear you. Definitely.

Miranda: Any others?

A Stevenson: Okay. So.

Hauth: Hey, everybody. Apologies, my apologies for dropping off the line. I am back. Thank you, Art, for filling in.

A Stevenson: Alright, I did, I did roll call, Randy.

Hauth: Okay.

A Stevenson: So, now we're up to...

Miranda: We need to adopt the April 20th meeting minutes.

Hauth: Okay, so, do I have a motion to approve the minutes as recorded and sent out?

A Stevenson: I so move.

Miranda: I'll make that.

Hauth: Okay, motion's been made by Art, do I have a second?

Miranda: Lewanda.

Hauth: Oh, Lewanda second. Yea or nay? Art?

A Stevenson: Yea.

Hauth: Derrick?

D Stevenson: Yea.

Hauth: Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Yea.

Hauth: Carole Webber?

Webber: Yes.

Hauth: Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: Yes.

Hauth: And I'll vote yea as well. Thank you. Motion passes. What do we have next?

Webber: It's public comments.

Hauth: All right. Anybody who’d like to make a public comment, please identify yourself, and you can have the floor.

Hawkins: Chair Hauth, it's Char.

Hauth: Hi Char. Yes, please.

Hawkins: Hi, well, first of all, I'd like to thank the commission. I have been assigned the Capitol Mall food trucks and also the vending in the Capitol Mall. And we've been to visit the food trucks three or four times, and they seem to be busy, and the one, the one gentleman is charging like $13, $14 pretty much for all of his, every meal and the other ones, as well. So I think they're making money. So, hopefully, they won't be upset with the rent that I'm charging them. It pretty much is $10 a day. So, for the days they're there, or 200 a month. So, I think that's reasonable. And the other thing, I, I have opened up North Mall, which is the coffee shop, the beautiful one that Harold got. They just got redone right before Covid, and it's been very slow, though we have no idea of how many people are in that building, which is the thing I wanted to talk about. Is there any way that we can, especially for people that are trying to run micro-markets, how many people are in the buildings? I don't know if it's Survey Monkey or, and not, not say 200 people, when they're, they're only there one day a week, you know. I, that doesn't really count, kind of. I don't have any idea how many people is in that building, but it's, it's rough going. It's a $70 day, to a $30 day, to a… And I'm only there, for let's see, about three hours. I'm going to increase two more hours until about noon or 12:30 this summer, because I've been taking food over there. But I really anticipated other buildings since I'm the only one in the Capitol Mall that's open for food or coffee right now, and that's a total of like six buildings. So, I don't know what the, I don't know if we're not advertising, well, we're not advertising, and there's no menus, there's no signs. I'm just kind of on my own. So, it would, you know, be helpful if we did some of that. But I really think for Carole and for Celyn to get a better idea of really how many people we're serving, and sometimes it may not even be feasible, you know, just to… Like, I’d kind of like to see Employment go back into a, vending machines, because it's so accessible to… That, we've had a transient in there at least twice. And there's no way to know that door is unlocked that goes right outside, and there's no, just no monitoring of that unit at all. So, and not a very good way to do inventory, because it's on the 365 system. So, anyway, that, that's my struggles and, and my happies for the extra help that the Capitol is going to give me. So.

Hauth: Yeah, Char, just congratulations. I'm happy for you on that.

Hawkins: Yes.

Hauth: Do you mind, do you mind sharing, so will you have a direct contract with the food trucks? Will you be...

Hawkins: Yes.

Hauth: Be overseeing those folks?

Hawkins: Yes.

Hauth: Okay.

Hawkins: I have a contract that I just took them today with the amount of rents that they're being charged, and then I'm requiring to let me know when they're not going to be there when they're, because the one guy has been several days not there, and

it puts the hardship on the other, you know, the other providers. So, we just kind of need to know, so at least they're prepared.

Hauth: Sure.

Hawkins: You know?

Hauth: Well, yeah.

Hawkins: I'd like to get one more truck in there. So.

Hauth: Yeah, well, I mean, I. That's, that's really exciting, you know. I mean, I know we all, I believe we all believe this, but the vending and the priority and the intent of the program are for the blind; it's not for the agency. It's not to have the agency collect money, you know, it's for the recipient of the program, the blind vendors. So, that's nice. There's still a lot of work to do, some heavy lifting on all the unassigned vending out there.

Hawkins: Yeah, exactly.

Hauth: So, let's, let's keep on keeping on and get those unassigned vendings going toward the, the recipients of the program, the intended recipients, which are the blind vendors. So, that's great, and just one other real quick thing. So, Covid's over. You know, I know the agency is still on a hybrid work schedule. I believe they're working only three days. I mean you, correct, correct me if I'm wrong, Eric, maybe that's changed, but I know the agency is, and I expect, and a bunch of other agencies are. I don't know why other than people got spoiled. Come on. You know, the pandemic's over. People should be back to work. I don't know if the union got involved, and how that all works. But it's too bad that, you know, like in your situation, you're trying to open up and service a coffee cart, and you don't have the kind of numbers that we know are there or should be there. So, I don't know what the answer to that is. You know, if there's any.

Hawkins: I'm just a taxpayer.

Hauth: Yeah, yeah.

Hawkins: I think the taxpayers ought to know that they're sitting there with, with six and eight state buildings like 10%, 20% full. And you know, it costs money to heat and cool and maintain those buildings. And it's our money that they're spending.

Hauth: Sure. And why, I mean, really...

Hawkins: And they need to make the state workers get back to work!

Hauth: And why are, why are workers, not only state, but why are the state, county, city, you know, whoever, why are they at home?

Hawkins: Yeah. We’re working.

Hauth: You know, anyway, thanks, Char. Anybody, anything else, anybody else have a public comment?

Hawkins: No, that was all.

Jackson: I got a public comment, Randy, Steve Jackson.

Hauth: Okay, Steve Jackson, go for it.

Jackson: Okay, public comment. I would really love to see a foot count, somehow or something, for all these spaces. It's just hurting, it's hurt, hurting me when there's nobody in the building I'm in, and I just got denied a, a partner. Evergreen Vending doesn't want to work with me in BPA. So, I have to try to figure out how to do what BPA wants on my own, because they don't like the, they don't like the set up, the whole thing.

Hughes: Can I ask you who that is?

Hauth: Hi, hey, Ted.

Miranda: Steve.

Hauth: Ted, that is Steve, that's Steve Jackson, a long-time vendor in the program, who's, who's struggling. But he runs a operation over at the state office building and at the Bonneville Power Administration. That's Steve Jackson.

Jackson: May I ask who's asking, who’s that?

Hauth: Hey, Steve, Steve, let me...

Jackson: Who just asked...

Hauth: That's a partner, that's a, that's a longtime lobbyist here in Oregon, Mr. Ted Hughes, who's taken an interest in our program and trying to help us all get to the finish line in a, in a good way, you know.

Jackson: Well, I'm struggling, I'm struggling.

Hauth: Yeah, so we can.

Jackson: So, just one, can I say one more thing?

Hauth: Sure. Sure.

Jackson: I appreciate any help I'm getting, but I need more help, and I've been asking for it for three years. And one more thing is, Char, where do you get the powdered stuff for your coffee vending machines? Do you have the Geneva?

Hawkins: Well, I, I used to get it from Farmer Brothers because I had them, anyway. And then I've heard that Cascade Coffee sells it.

Jackson: Okay, thanks.

Hawkins: And Vistar also has it, Vistar.

Jackson: Oh, Vistar has, okay, okay, that's all. Great.

Hauth: Hey, Steve, can I ask you a quick question? You said Evergreen doesn't want to work with you. Did you mean they don't find that opportunity there feasible opportunity?

Jackson: That's correct. Yeah, I just got an email.

Hauth: Okay, yeah, because when you said they don't want to work with you, you know, that can be taken a different way. So.

Jackson: They turned it down.

Hauth: You know, obviously they turned it down because the business isn't there. And that's unfortunate, you know. And that's what we've been talking about, a lot of these managers that have been pushed into micro-markets. I'm not saying you were, but some people have been pushed into micro-markets, and the, the money is just not there, and when you get a subcontractor like Evergreen that comes in and says no. Well, come on, you gotta have some, you know, credit to that. So, thank you, Steve, for sharing that. Is there anything else, anybody else would like to make a public comment? Please do.

Babcock: Michael Babcock.

Hauth: Hey, Michael!

Babcock: Hey! So, I'll make this real quick, because I know there's some important things to be discussed today. Firstly, I want to state that I appreciate being copied on all emails that are sent to the agency. As a commissioner, it's very important for me to be kept in the loop. And I, though I don't reply to any of the emails, I do want people to be assured that I am reading them and well aware of them. Your public comments are appreciated at the Commissioners’ meeting, and I want to invite all managers who have public comments to feel free to bring those to the Commissioners’ meeting. Though it seems like things may not be done, I, I do want to let you know that people are out there listening, and I'm, I, I know that I'm probably not the best person to make the biggest change to make the, the most impact, but I do listen, and, and I do want people to know that I'm out here and trying to do what I can to help. I also want to see it from both sides. That transitions me into my encouragement for all managers and anyone associated with other managers to please, full transparency, I am a commissioner on the board representing the American Council of the Blind of Oregon. But I do suggest that you go to acbmedia.org and search up Sagebrush, because I edited that, this year's conference, and it was well worth every second I spent editing that conference, and it got me excited about the Randolph Sheppard program, and taught me a lot of stuff that I didn't know and helped encourage me. So, keep up the awesome work. And I, if I'm not here, I do listen to the recordings of these calls and appreciate everything everyone has to say.

Hauth: Thank you, Michael. Hey, thank you for joining us. I wish more commissioners would join us in in an open and receptive way. I do have just a quick question, if you can answer it or not? I have sent emails to the OCB commissioners’ portal, I guess. The Commission must manage that server. Do you, do you receive those? Do those go directly to the commissioners? You know, what other commissioners are receiving those?

Babcock: Randy, I, I can tell you, I have seen that you put in the commissioners’ email address and not my email address directly, so, I can't speak as to what happens for other commissioners. But I can tell you that I am receiving your emails.

Hauth: Awesome, that's great! And just, I know you can't probably talk to this, but one thing that's really, I'm going to make a public comment, so, hopefully you can, you know, at least, if you can't weigh back in on it, you can consider it and have discussion with the other commissioners. One of the things that I find really concerning is that Randolph, or the RSA, Rehabilitative Service Administration, has come through most recently, as you are well aware, and have dictated or directed or suggested or told the agency, look it, you cannot be using federal money and set-aside money to litigate against managers. The agency has been doing that for ever and forever and ever, and unfortunately, in my opinion, that shows a sign of poor administration. They would rather, in my opinion, throw money at the AG's office to take care of these troubled children, right? Instead of really sitting down and progressively working together to try and build opportunities and assign vending, and that, that's my opinion, and I think it's shared by a lot of other vendors. But what, what is the Commission going to do and the commissioners going to do about seeing a letter from RSA telling the agency that they should not be using those federal monies and set-aside monies, and they need to create a corrective action plan, but the agency basically stubbing their nose at RSA and continuing to oppress and battle against the vendors who are trying to advocate for a better program, so... I don't know if you can share that, on that, or comment on that, or just, you know, absorb that?

Babcock: So, so, what I will do, Randy is, I cannot comment on that, because I cannot speak for other commissioners. However, I feel that your concern is, is valid, and the concern of all other managers is valid, and that should, if it's not brought up during our next meeting, it'll be something that I, I feel should be brought up, and I will bring that up and, and ask what other commissioners’ thoughts are.

Hauth: Thank you. And again, thank you for your time, Michael.

Babcock: Yeah, and I just want to conclude with saying, I can't, I tell my 15- and 16-year-old boys, and I'll tell everyone this, we can only control our own actions. I can't control the actions of others, but I'm definitely willing to listen to what other people have to say. So, thank you.

Hauth: Duly noted. Okay, anybody else?

Morris: Hey, Randy, it's Eric.

Hughes: I would.

Morris: Sorry.

Hughes: …like to make a comment. My name is Ted Hughes, I'm sorry to jump in here.

Hauth: No, please do, Ted. Nice, nice, nice to have you. Please make your comment.

Hughes: Was it with a strange face and a dumb attitude, I wanted to point out to that Commissioner that I'm learning. I'm, I'm trying to find out, what are all these organizations, who manages them, all that stuff? So, we're going to continue to drive on that trail and programs like miss, this, the first one we've listened to, are helping us a lot. So, that's what we're doing here, Gary and I.

Hauth: Yeah, thank you, Ted. And I know getting to know you and Gary and Bob Parker have been a glimmer of hope going forward to help kind of mold this program in the way it should be, and I know you've been a long-time lobbyist in Oregon, and you have a lot of connections. You have a lot of knowledge, and you and Gary and Bob, I think will do the best by, by the program. So, that's great. I appreciate having you here.

Hughes: We, we intend to. I pledge that to you. We're, first we gotta learn what the problem is and what's going on now, why it isn't working? So, any information you think I should have, I wish you would contact the association so they can give it to me. Thank you.

Hauth: You bet, Bob, or Ted. Thank you.

A Stevenson: Hey, Randy?

Hauth: I think I heard Eric on there. Did you want to say something, Eric?

Morris: Yeah, Randy, I just wanted to jump back to Char and Steve's comments about building population. It, it is a struggle to, and we've done surveys at different locations. I don't believe we, we've done one at North Mall yet, we definitely can. It is, it is a moving target. I think the, one of the best and easiest solutions in a tough circumstance is to work closely with their building manager, and really have those conversations. As we learned up at BPA the other day talking to their building manager, who is, it sounds like he's in the building only once a week. So, some of the federal employees are four days out of the office and one day in the office. So, they're the ones that are going to have the closest, most detailed information. And every single building, every single agency seems to be doing something just slightly different when it comes to remote or hybrid work. So, Char, I'll circle back with you next week.

Hauth: Hey, Eric, just quickly. Any idea why, that is again? The pandemic's over, you know. Life has returned to normal.

Hawkins: I thought it was supposed to be 50% people back. And we've got a 1600-person building with 200 people in it.

Morris: Yeah, guys, I, I don't know. I don't have the answer to that question. I think, as I said, every agency is doing something different, and it really depends on what the person's job is, what their, what their interaction is with clients and customers and, and frankly, some people, some people don't need to be in an office to get their jobs done when it comes to, like, accounting, and some of those kind of things. Here at the agency, like with the, I can only speak to my team specifically. We're two days remote and three days in the office, or three days in the field, so and that, and that varies depending on what's exactly is going on. As government across the nation, you're seeing all sorts of different variations, not just a government, but in the private sector, too, where we basically have the capability not to be stuck in a cubicle somewhere doing stuff that you're only sitting in that cubicle to do, so.

Hauth: Okay.

Morris: The pandemic, I think, accelerated something that was coming anyway. We just basically, we got it, in two years instead of five, or six, 10 years. So.

Hauth: Okay, thank you. Anybody else?

Haseman: Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Okay, go ahead, Linda.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Haseman Yeah. I, I think.

Hauth: Art, let Linda go, and then I'll turn to you, bud.

Haseman: Hey, there! I just wanted to state a couple of things. I heard on the news today, which I think is good news. It's not necessarily tied to the Randolph Sheppard program, but it's tied to disabilities, and I believe Steve Jackson was involved in it at some point, maybe still is. But there was some type of settlement tied to the disability group that's, was going after the city tied to the tent camping and their accessibility of navigating sidewalks, etc. Sounds like that's still kinda finalizing through the settlement. But at least if yeah, I know Steve was a part of that at some point. I heard him speak up at couple of meetings, and I applaud Steve for doing that. That's a big thing. Again, it's not tied to the Randolph Sheppard program, but anything that helps disabilities, I say, go for it. The other thing I'd like to share is that I'm very fact based. I've shared stuff with the Commission Board and offered that they're welcome to contact me, and I have nothing but facts. So, at any point in time, anybody can contact me. I operate off facts. I'm facts driven. I see that there's been some emails going around and around tied to non-specific, what I would consider rhetoric, and I'm fact based. And Steve Gordon [sic] situation really did appall me and still does. I hope that's been resolved or moving in a positive manner. But if people indicate that there wasn't facts tied to that, I have the facts. So, I think you all, most of you on the line, know that that's true. I don't operate off of just happenstance. So, I, I appreciate the ability to cup--, public comment. And again, Steve and anybody else going after disability rights and fighting for, the good fight to make sure that you guys can be, have accessibility, I applaud you. Thank you.

Hauth: Thank you, Linda. Art, go ahead.

A Stevenson: Am I off mute, Randy?

Hauth: You are. Yes, sir.

A Stevenson: Hey, hey, Michael Babcock, thank you for your comment. I really do appreciate it. But I do want to state that the Elected Committee is still not allowed to make comments during the portion that, of course, the director of the vending program does, which I still find really objectionable. Especially since, you know, Scott McClellan [sic] and Dacia Johnson seem to think that our input, obviously, is not valid input. And so, where I appreciate you saying, hey, you make your public comments, I still see it, feel that Director Johnson, Scott McClellan [sic] are disallowing the Elected Committee to talk about issues that we maybe have concerning what's going on in the program, and only one side of the story is being told. That's not true active participation. And again, I find it very objectionable that the director, Director Johnson and Scott McClellan [sic] continue to allow comments from the director of our program, and we have no opportunity to give our input, the Elected Committee's input, on what's going on. It's wrong, it should change and so, anything that you can do, Michael, to ensure that happens would be appreciated. But again, the director should be allowing our comments. And I'm talking about Dacia Johnson and Scott McClellan [sic], when they're talking about our program. Because there, actually, it says, the Elected Committee represents the managers, and it clearly states that, you know, we should be participating whenever the agency is making decisions concerning our managers and be allowed to give our input. So.

Hauth: Thank you.

A Stevenson: Thanks, Michael, for your part. But again, I, I do find it objectionable that we aren't allowed to make comments concerning our program, but our director is [inaudible], It's only one side of the story.

Hauth: Thank you, Art.

Babcock: Thank you, Art.

Hauth: Anybody, anyone else? Hey, Art? I'll just close out with.

Hughes: Art, this is Ted Hughes again.

Hauth: Who's it? Hey, Ted, go ahead.

Hughes: You and I, there’s… You and I discussed, you and I discussed what a rotten deal this is on the agenda, and I'm going to let everybody have a vacation over there, the staff people, before we explain it to ‘em how that's not a good way to operate, and we're going to get to them, we have not visited with 'em yet. But I promise you we will, and we will change that agenda. So, you can participate fully with them. That's only fair. So, that's what our sights are, and we will get it done soon, I promise. And, and I'd like some of you to go with me when I do it. Thank you for your time.

Hauth: Yeah, thank you, Ted, and you, you, you have the commitment of many on the line who will be there with you, as well. I do want to say, just before we move on to the business items, a couple of things just to reflect. I mean, it goes without saying, that Director Johnson controls the Commission for the Blind Board, who sits on the board, even though the American Council of the Blind, and even though the National Federation of the Blind, and even though others represent that board. I can tell you firsthand, when the American Council of the Blind, recommended that I be the representative to sit on the Commission Board, Dacia Johnson did everything she could do to keep me off of there, I guess, because I'm such a scary person. Or maybe, I was going to actually try and ensure that she was transparent and did the work best for the blind of Oregon, and the best way I can. So, we, we know that we can tell you that James Edwards, who was a former commissioner felt he was, when he started advocating, that Dacia Johnson basically bullied him and dismissed him and found a way for him not to get re-appointed to the board. So, I mean, the list goes on and on. Scott McCullen [sic] lives in Washington, and when that was brought up as a concern, here we have a fully sighted commission chair, who, in my opinion, works too closely and too supportive of the Director of the Agency, lives in Washington, does anything, basically, that she asks of him without question or any kind of reproach. So, we all know it's a messed-up system. How do we fix it? Well, let's find a way to fix it. So, thank you, everybody. Okay, what do we have next on the agenda? Carole?

Webber: We have the subcommittee report and the unassigned vending.

Hauth: Okay, that's Lewanda. Lewanda, you're on.

Webber: It is.

Miranda: Okay, okay, so unassigned vending, as most of you know, in the last meeting, I made a motion to distribute the unassigned vending out to all of the managers equally. That motion was denied partially, however, Director Morris has said that he would work with us moving forward. So, Director Morris, I'd like to know if you have any recommendations on moving forward?

Morris: Yeah, Lewanda, thank you for that. So, as we all know, unassigned vending has been a lightning rod topic for a long time, and one of the things that Lewanda and I talked about briefly, was the idea that, you know, we are using unassigned vending to a certain extent, to help run the program in the sense of, you know, equipment maintenance, and all the basic things that we normally pay with set-aside. That's getting better, because obviously, I think times are getting better. And the set-aside fund, as you guys have all noticed, is getting better and, and beefing back up. My thought process was, we explore the option because, as people get older in the program, have been in the program longer, I hear more often and more often that people don't have options to retire. And you know, basically don't have a plan for retirement. And so, I know that some agencies across, or some programs across the, the United States have that option where they're using some of those funds to establish retirement programs for people who are in the program. And I think if we did a long-range projection around, you know, the things that we're going to talk about in strategic planning. What are the big lifts that we haven't gotten the funding from the legislature for that we can help, you know, stockpile money to go after and stand up with those kind of things set aside, what monies do we have left that we could put into some kind of a retirement long range planning type of a, type of program? It's going to take a little bit of financial crunching, which I would obviously let the CFO here help me with, because she's much better at that than I am. But that was my thought. Now that would not mean that we wouldn't, we wouldn't like, because obviously, if we have locations that are doing really well that we can combine into vending routes, I think that's also ultimately what we should be doing. I think that, you know, the other thing, too, to consider it, I've talked to several VFMS across the United States at different times, that the vending routes we have out here are significant vending routes. They're big operations, but in some states, they're small operations. The people, they’re, they want to run a smaller operation that doesn't take as much time and effort and just angst over running. So, if we could have maybe a variety of shapes and sizes of vending routes. I know that we've always targeted, you know, a certain earnings potential from, from our perspective, from everybody's perspective in Oregon at least, but maybe looking at some small, smaller higher speed operations.

Miranda: Well, I looked at those, you know, the list and I don’t see on that list. I, well, I, I’ve been waiting for a geographical list from, from the agency. But I don’t see how, how anybody could make a living with that. I mean, they’re so far apart and everything. And the distance and the gas mile and all that. I don’t see a vending route there, for sure. But you know, so, if it was, if we were gonna talk about retirement and stuff, there’s five purposes for the use of the unassigned vending. And I think that we would have to bring that up, have a meeting soon, and bring that up to the membership for a membership vote. But we did that for vacation, and we haven’t received vacation in a long time, so, what’s going on with that?

Morris: Well, if, as you guys’ll recall, and it seems like it was a lifetime ago, when we met in Eugene, and you guys took a vote on that, obviously way before the pandemic. But that was for federal unassigned which is, you know, federal and state are different as it comes to how the statutes and the federal regulations are laid out. So, this, we’re talking about unassigned state and federal locations, unassigned, sorry, unassigned state and local locations. So, but yeah, I mean, we can sit down once we have some good data around projections and stuff and have that kind of a discussion, I don’t think it would take a lifetime to put that together.

Miranda: Okay.

Hauth: So.

Miranda: Well, I would, I would like to schedule a meeting and have everybody that wants to come and be involved come. And then I would like to have a membership vote on, on you know, our decision on what, what we’re gonna do if everybody’s vested in it. So, if we could do that soon, that would be great. If you could let me know your availability, then I’ll get the information out to everybody.

Hauth: Lewanda?

Miranda: Yeah?

Hauth: I'd like to clarify a couple of things if I may.

Miranda: Okay.

Hauth: Sure. So, you're right. There are five uses for set-aside. However, that can't just be done arbitrarily or capriciously by the agency. I know, Eric says, well, we use that to operate the program. Maybe so. Maybe they use it to litigate against managers. Maybe they use it, but however, you know, to buy equipment. I'm sure some good uses are used by that. However, that's supposed to be done with active participation and a vote of the committee, you know, doesn't mean that the agency absolutely has to support and approve everything the committee does, but for the agency just to collect set-aside, set up, I mean, collect unassigned vending, set up unassigned vending, and bring that money into their own hoppers is improper. If you look through the state statute, it clearly identifies the recipient of this program that the blind. It also talks about the agency only being able to operate a facility when there's nobody else available. And if you, you know, and I know the agency for the longest time, said, well, no, these independent little machines are not facilities. Well, if you look at the definition, yeah, they are. So, if you read the definitions, so you know, I guess my concern comes down, you know, Tom was supposed to be making, Ryan was supposed to get you a geographical map. Tom was supposed to be putting a facility together, and all we hear from the agency is how they're continuing to work with us on this. Well, how many years does it take? Another thing, in my opinion, that supports total self-service, we could put a blind person to work, and we could have a blind person subcontract all those machines right, throughout the state, or we could maybe put two people to work. I'm not sure, I don't have it in front of me. But you don't always have to think of it as going out and filling the machines, right? There's a way to do it subcontract, and I know the agency here a few years back, decided they were going to take a whole another avenue. But that's one thing I believe they're missing the boat on. It's, but bottom line, having meetings and having meetings and having meetings with nothing getting done. You know, where is the report that Tom did? Where's the geographical list that Ryan was supposed to get? I get tired of hearing these same old excuses, you know, I really do. No disrespect intended to anybody, and I know you do, too, because I've talked to you. You know, you were getting ready to resign. You quit, quit the, quit the committee because nothing happened. Nobody gets back to you. So, Eric, what's the deal? We can't just keep kicking this can down the road.

Morris: Yeah, Randy, I, I totally agree with that. And I, I, I thought Ryan had provided that. But I will follow up on that. That's, that's my bad for not doing that and following up on it to the geographic layout. But just as a little bit of a refresher, I, I have asked the Elected Committee a couple, more a couple of times, for different strategies around unassigned vending, because I've learned that if I come up with different things, the people aren't going to be happy with that. So, I've asked you guys several times about different strategies for either assigning unassigned vending. Strategies that would be long enduring strategies instead of one-offs and, and dividing amongst everybody, sounds really good, but that's not fair and equitable to everybody, because everybody's in a different financial kind of a situation also. So, I think to, to your point, we don't want it to go on forever. I certainly don't, because it doesn't make you guys happy that it's an issue that you're still unhappy about. So, we want to get it solved. But we also have to look more than just, like, two months down the road, too.

Hauth: Okay, yeah. And you know, listen, some of the, some of the blame could be on our part. I'm not saying it's all on the agency. However, you know, the agency always says, look it, we, we're depending on you guys to bring this forward. But in a lot of other instances, the agency doesn't listen to us. So, when I'm trying to see is that genuine or disingenuous, right? So, in my opinion, if this right, wrong, or indifferent, it looks to me like the agency is collecting money and gobbling this money up and hoarding this money and using this money to operate the program away from the vendors, and then using excuses like, where is the, where is the list that Tom was supposed to have put together, right? And if you remember, prior to you being hired, the Elected Committee in active participation with the agency put together a request for assistance form, and then they put together a policy on how we could assign vending to different managers who wanted vending or requested vending, and it might not have been a hundred percent perfect, but it was a heck of a lot better than what we've had since you've been here, and I know when you came in, Eric, you said, oh, that's not fair, and that's not right, and I'm just gonna do away with it. And then the agency started collecting all this money. So, that's got to change, you know, I'm not saying it's all your fault, so, please don't. But you are the director of the program. So, you're the point of contact. So.

Haseman: Linda Haseman.

Morris: Randy, I.

Hauth: Go ahead. Go ahead, Eric.

Morris: I was going to say, Randy, I, I don't disagree with you, because when, and I have to think long and hard about when that was, because I've been here a little while now, is that the, the idea that a group of people would be able to sit down and make decisions without having all the data and I, I'm sure, like, Linda was commenting earlier, having all the facts in that kind of a situation if, if a person is making a ton of money, but still says, hey, I, I still need more money, then that group that's, that's tasked with, you know, issuing out more assistance kind of a thing that, that's not fair to them. It's certainly not fair to everybody else, so, I think the, you know, the, the real problem with that is, everybody doesn't have all the information that I, I certainly do, because everybody turns their reports in to me. So, I think that's the, that's the piece of it that is a struggle. If everybody knew what everybody made down to the detail, then that would be a whole different conversation.

Hauth: Right, and just real quickly, before I turn it over to Linda, it does say in the statute and the federal regulations maximize your true vocational potential, enlarge your economic opportunities. So, for the mindset of saying, oh, you make too much, you know, that's probably not a good way to look at it. So.

Haseman: So, here's my perspective on this. Several years back, Dacia Johnson came out with a proposal about subcontracting. Her plan B was to drag it all into unassigned vending and divvy it out. I don't know if plan B's coming into fruition or what's happening, but it sure looks like it's all being drug in. And when I look at the financials, it looks like a lot of it, and I said this the last time, and I will continue to say it until somebody hears it. Okay, Smitty's Vending is being paid quite a bit. Now, it almost looks like they're being paid 6,000 or more dollars a month to store machines. That's a misuse and abuse of money, in my opinion, and I'm going to state it, and I just did. So, something is seriously wrong. I stated it last week. I'm going to continue stating it. Somebody might actually listen to me and hear it. I'm trained in human resources. I have a resources, human resources management certificate from Linfield College. Yes, here in Oregon, and I spent a lot of my time dealing with financials and budgeting, state and federal, including being a human resources person for a federal subcontractor. [inaudible] Something is wrong. And I want to see, and again, instead of non-specific rhetoric, I want to see the work product that Tom Pileggi was working on. Why he was a retire, and in my opinion, a rehire for this agency, and why is $6,000 going to Smitty's to store machines that likely shouldn't have been purchased until all the kinks and all the issues were worked out. There is a problem here, when the state subcontractor is a bigger benefactor in a lot of ways than the people on the, this call, the disabled. And I said it earlier, I'm going to applaud disability advocacy. It's time, thank you.

Hauth: Yeah, thank you very much. Lewanda, so, moving forward, I know Eric brought up, you know, the retirement thing, and quite honestly, I don't know how these states across the land, I haven't looked at it lately, but I don't know how states across the land do retirement. I know they've been at it a long time. Most of the people in our program are over 60, right? So, to try and get a benefit for the vendors in the program right now through retirement, I think would be, you know, a heavy lift, would be hard to do. One of the things that I'm concerned about, I know I heard from Steve Gordon a while back, where one of the BEP staff asked him if he’d thought about retiring, and then I heard from Lin Jaynes one of the BEP staff asked about him retiring, so, I just would hope there isn't some kind of consensus to age out the managers, you know, and to have them retire, and you know, I hope that wouldn't be the motivation behind it. But, you know, as far as retirement, versus trying to get managers what they need right now and help what they need right now, I mean, I'm all, I believe, I, I believe the managers need to vote on it like you say, but you know, hopefully, you can work with Eric, and we can actually get somewhere, because it seems like we've just been spinning wheels forever, you know. So.

Miranda: Well, I, I would like to do it in a meeting, and I'd like to have everybody involved.

Hauth: Okay, yeah, no, well, let's, let's do it. So.

Miranda: So, Eric, if you could look at your calendar and maybe the week after we have our strategic planning meeting, which is the seventh through the ninth, if we could do it that following week, that would be great. So, you can look at your calendar and let me know.

Morris: I'll take a look and get back to you.

Miranda: Okay, thank you.

Hauth: Okay, thank you. Lewanda.

A Stevenson: Randy?

Hauth: Yes, Derrick, go ahead.

A Stevenson: It's not Derrick, it's Art.

Hauth: Oh, Art, go ahead.

A Stevenson: It's Art.

Hauth: Art, go ahead.

A Stevenson: Yeah, yeah, okay. Can you hear me?

Hauth: Yes.

Miranda: Yes.

A Stevenson: Okay. The agency is only supposed to provide continued operation of a vending facility, you know, if a qualified person is not available. And kind of interesting that the agency could say, okay, I'm just making all this money. It doesn't say they have the authority to do it. It just says they have the authority to provide for the continued operation of the vending facility if the manager isn't available. It doesn't say that they have the authority to dictate where that goes, that money goes. And of course, they've dictated it goes in the set-aside, without the active participation of the Elected Committee. That obviously is a major administrative decision. And obviously, and truthfully speaking, the agency is only entitled to 11% of the net proceeds, not to all of the proceeds, and for the agency to just arbitrarily, capriciously say, we're collecting all money from the unassigned vending machine income and we are putting it in set-aside without our okay, the Elected Committee, is absolutely wrong. And you know, I think you guys all know where I'm going through, going here. They have no authority to collect all that money and just throw it in to set-aside and spend it on all, what they desire, desire to spend it on. They’re only entitled to the 11% from us, when we receive that income. And so, you know, I, I just wanted to make that comment because they don't have the authority to do that. And, and without our okay on it. Although they believe they do…

Hauth: Yeah, thank you, Art, duly noted. Okay, hey, just before we move on, can we, I am looking for a couple of managers, at least a couple of managers to head up the site survey subcommittee. You know, we all know that the agency has been doing site surveys on, you know, various locations over the years. And now, as you'll recall, Eric, asked to, you know, start doing them on, I think the vending facilities and that. So, in order to make sure that we have participation in it, I want to make sure that we have a subcommittee that can meet with Eric and hash out these forms. So, you, you know, the thing is this in the past, and I know a lot of states probably do it this way. I don't think it's the best way, the state creates this thing, right, that they want, and then they bring it to the committee and say, hey, what do you guys think? And we make our comments, and the agency goes back and does whatever they want, you know, I mean, that might be an over dramatization, but not much of one. So, is there anybody that's interested in working on something like that?

A Stevenson: What, what was their responsibility, Randy?

Hauth: Well, to work with Eric. I would, I would propose that we work with Eric on a meeting or two to try and get something dialed in. I know Linda Haseman has volunteered, but we need some assistance from the blind managers and the board so, and if nobody wanted to do it, then we're stuck with what we get, I guess, you know what I mean? So.

Miranda: I'll, I'll do it, Randy.

Hauth: Okay, thank you, Lewanda. I think you're a good choice, and I know, Lewanda, or Linda said she would, she would participate, as well. So.

Miranda: Wonderful.

Hauth: Anyone else?

A Stevenson: Randy, do you want, do you want me…

Webber: I can help also, Randy.

Hauth: Carole, is that Carole?

Webber: Yes, yes.

Hauth: Yeah, Carole, great, awesome.

A Stevenson: Now are they gonna develop specific qualifications to establish a site, Randy, the different kinds of sites like, hey, we can only put vending machines, because we, we do those parameters…

Hauth: No, this is, I'm sorry, Eric, or Art, I'm sorry, I, I might be kind of confusing. I did, this is a site, site inspection. I don't know. I maybe called it a site survey. I'm sorry, but it, when the agency comes to inspect the vendor, vendor’s facility. So, we want to build parameters around how that is to look, so.

Young: Hey, Randy, this is Harold.

Hauth: Yeah, yes, Harold?

Young: I'll jump in and help where I can and when I can.

Hauth: That's great. I'm glad, love to have you. So, okay, so, let's move on to get this business. I think we've been having some great discussion, much needed discussion. But let's move on and, and get this, the rest of the business done. So.

Webber: Okay, next, we have discussion and possible denouncement of agency violating actions.

Hauth: So, you know, sounds like kind of a negative thing to have on the agenda. But the truth sometimes hurts, and the truth, in my opinion, from the agency recently, has been awful negative. I mean, you know, if you look back, I'm just share with you, if you look back at Lin Jaynes in her own words, being bullied out of the program. You know, the agency said, you gotta get out there and do your self-service initiative. And she kept telling the agency, look it, there's no money out there. I can't do it. I'm gonna lose money. And well, so, finally, she decided to leave because she felt she was bullied and intimidated in it. But once she leaves, what happens? The agency comes through and says, hey, maybe that wasn't a viable location. We all know the recent action against Steve Gordon, and you know, regardless, I don't know every particular, but what I can tell you is, I've spoken, and Linda spoken with his family members, and we do know, we do know the detail behind that he was not wanting to leave the program, and that he was suffering from some health-related issues. And two days after the agency was informed of Steve's, you know, debilitating condition the agency sent a [sic] email by way of Teresa Fields, to direct Steve's money into the agency, to unassigned vending, and worst case scenario that facility should have gone out for bid. That's how the law reads. Best case scenario, that never should have happened. So, I can tell you one of the things that's really concerning to me, is that the agency continues to use federal and set-aside money to litigate against managers. Grievances, right? How, how wrong is that? How, in my opinion, how morally improper and ethically improper is that once they're told, once the agency is told, they shouldn't be doing that, and they just continue to do it. So, I know that's going to be an issue to address, because the agency, in my opinion, from what I can see, is saying, no, that's fine, we'll continue to do it. So, just denouncing the agency, you know, for those wrong doings. And you know, collecting so much unassigned vending, and you know, it's just a, a, it's just in my irrehensible [sic], you know. I don't know that we need to take any formal action at this point in time, maybe something needs to be put together, some kind of position paper that denounces line by line, point by point, what the managers feel is a wrong doing and the wrong doings. But I just wanted to see if there's anybody else on here that wants to throw a word in edgewise, and please feel free to. But I wanted to at least have a little bit of discussion around it, so. Okay, well, hearing, hearing nothing, let's move on to the next, next…

[unidentified]: [inaudible]

Webber: Okay, self-service initiative update.

Hauth: Hold on just a second. Okay, wait. I did have a comment here by Linda she wanted to mention something.

Jackson: Can I make a quick comment, Chairman? Can I make a quick one, is that…? Steve Jackson.

Hauth: Yeah, Steve, go ahead, bud.

Jackson: I, I find it confusing and unfair, that because I have kitchen or cafeteria in the buildings that I can subcontract, but people, those are doing vending machines in multiple routes are being told they have to do it a certain way, which, I just, I just don't agree with the self-service initiative. That's all I really want to say [inaudible].

Hauth: Thank you, Steve. Yeah, it's a little confusing. What, what I can tell you, just stepping back prior to pandemic, the agency felt they were going to just impose this on the vending facility managers. At that time, I think there was eight or nine of them, and they said, well, the live operations, right, like people who are, actually had humans in their building, were doing live operations, they said, well, they don't have to do that because they're already working. And you know, the, so, then after the pandemic and during the pandemic, when those facilities went away and micro-markets came to be, and so forth and so on, I don't think, there's a lot of things in the self-service initiative the agency did not think of, including the pandemic. Obviously, how could they?

Jackson: [inaudible]

Hauth: But you know, those are the real dynamics that happen. But yeah, it's confusing. We're going to continue to work on addressing this initiative to make it be a benefit for the program and the managers. So.

Haseman: Yeah, this is Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Yeah, go ahead, Linda.

Haseman: Just so everybody knows, I was the first point of contact, because I've remained very close with the Gordon family after Emmy passed, and we all know beautiful, sweet, Emmy inside and out, right, she was gorgeous. Anyways, I, I stay in contact with the Gordon family. And so does Randy. But I've become very close to her daughter, because she emulates a lot of her mother. And I was the one that contacted the agency on Saturday before Easter. This is not anything new that the agency doesn't know, including the Commission Board, including Dacia Johnson, including Eric Morris, and I contacted Vinnie, because that's the person I had confidence in, could handle the situation. Can you imagine my chagrin when Monday afternoon we're hearing about Steve Gordon, and he's no longer in the program. When I just had a conversation with his daughter on Saturday that we needed, out of respect for the program, to contact the agency to let them know, as the 20th was rapidly approaching for books, etc.

Jackson: Out of respect, yeah.

Haseman: Yeah, out of respect. And then all of a sudden, on Monday, can you imagine what my eyes must have, and my ears, and my whole body musta did when I heard and learned that Steve Gordon, and individuals were saying that Steve Gordon was no longer in the program after I just talked to a family member two days prior? So, again, as I stated earlier, I'm done with the non-specific rhetoric. I'm fact based. I'm the one that contacted and con--, her, and actually, I didn't contact her. She contacted me on Saturday, and I certainly hope it's been straightened out. And to be honest, I let the Commission Board out of, again, respect and a courtesy, know what was going on, including the specifics of Teresa Field's email. And I don't blame Teresa. She's not in a hierarchy position. She was told or informed or required to do that email. And I would stand up for any of you if I saw that happen. And I did stand up for Mr. Gordon, and the Commission Board heard it directly from me. Dacia heard it directly from me, tied to what had occurred with Mr. Gordon. After two days of me talking to a family member and informing the Commission. I don't blame Vinnie either. He's not in a position of authority. So, again, I'm going to go on facts. You all now have the facts. I told the Commission Board, any one of them could contact me directly. None of them did. So, I'm going to state it one more time. I certainly hope, Mr. Gordon's still in the program. I don't know what led up to it. I don't know why. All I know is out of respect for the program and out of respect for the upcoming due dates, I was authorized to contact the agency, and two days after that, the day after Easter, all nonsense broke loose. Thank you.

Hauth: Yeah, thank you, Linda, and we are going to move on. But Linda would do that for any, any of you on the line as well. So, please know that. So, what do we have next, Carole?

Miranda: Thank you, Linda.

Hauth: Yes, yes, you, you're welcome. They said thank you, Linda. Is that Art?

A Stevenson: Yeah, am I off mute?

Hauth: Yep, you are.

A Stevenson: Dang it, you're too slow, Randy. Okay, well, as far as the 50-machine mandate goes, the Elected Committee voted last, last meeting to end a 50-machine mandate. We were against the 50-machine mandate from the very beginning and obviously, the agency didn't give a darn about any of this. In fact, again, the Elected Committee represents the managers, and the state statute says that they can only, the agency can only adopt rules and ensure the proper and satisfactory operation of the vending facilities and for the benefit of the blind licensed manager. Now, last meeting, and all along, we, as an Elected Committee, was against this mandate. And but the agency actually didn't care about that. They said, we're going to force this upon you guys whether you like it or not, whether it's profitable or not, we really don't care, and last meeting, we voted to end the 50-machine mandate because it was not beneficial to the managers. In fact, managers would be losing money. And, and then having to make it up, of course, from the stuff they have that they have a subcontractor with. And so, again, I want to say that the mandate is not beneficial to the managers. It's detrimental to the managers, managers lose money, and it needs to end now before more people end up losing money. And I know people are losing money, you know, they're not making what they were before, they're making less. And, and that's why it has to end because, first of all, you know, in my opinion, to ensure the proper and satisfactory operation of a vending facility, a manager needs to make a profit. If he is not making a profit, then the dang facility shouldn't exist. Period. And therefore, you know, the agency needs to end this, and we can move forward. We're independent businesspeople. We decide how we want to run our business to be the most profitable that it can be, and the only way we can do that is if we decide how we are going to run our business, which includes, you know, what, what machines are going to be profitable to us to self-service, and what machines are better off being subcontracted. And so, it needs to end, it needs to end now. The agency needs to follow the recommendations of the Elected Committee because we're making this recommendation because we know that it's detrimental to the blind licensed managers, period. It should be up to them to decide what's best for their business, including what they're going to service and what they're not going to service, because of the profitability aspect of the whole thing.

Hauth: Okay, Art, thank you.

A Stevenson: Okay.

Hauth: All right, guys, so, what do we, let's, let's, let’s circle back, but let's, well, sorry. Let's move forward and get some more business done, and let's circle back possibly on the next agenda or prior to this official announcement of these wrongful, what we believe are wrongful actions. What do we have next, Carole?

Webber: It is un--, unincurred business expenses.

Hauth: Okay…

Miranda: That's me.

Hauth: Eric, I know that Lewanda had worked with you in the past, but as far as the Social Security information, they un-a-cure [sic] business expenses. I think there was a [sic] agreement that was made by the agency that those were going to be provided every so often. So, anyway, Lewanda, if you want to take that over [inaudible] do.

Miranda: Yeah, that's true, by the month of February, and we decided on February, so they could get their, they would have January to do the updated operating agreements. And so, the problem is, when Social Security contacts one of us, we only have 10 days to respond to them. And so, we need to have these each year in our own files, so that we're, we're ready to go when we, we're approached by Social Security. I did talk to Eric, and he said that they, he thinks they'd have those done soon, because they didn't have an accountant. Right, Eric?

Morris: Yeah, Lewanda, thanks for that. Yeah, the unincurred business expense, we did agree to do that annually, and I think that's in perfect times when, I mean, with the, just being said that when the accounting staff, there, we have, I think, currently two accounting for, people in accounting right this second. So, they're, they're a short staffed, and the one person, the person who left was the accountant that does, does the, Susan, when she left, she's the person that's doing all of our stuff. So, as soon as they get somebody hired, that's on the top of my list for accounting as a project to get done, because it is as, as Lewanda mentioned, it's a heavy lift when Social Security reaches out to somebody, and fortunately we haven't had that happen in the last, knock on wood, six months. But as soon as they’re staffed back up, I'm confident they'll be able to get that project done. But for right now, they're, the, I think they're struggling to get the statements and invoicing out each month. I know that they work hard to get that out on a timely basis. But. I think we've done three recruitments for it now, because I'm participating in the interviews for those recruitments, and I think this is the third one we're working on, or just wrapped up now.

Hauth: Well, you know, Eric, I know you're not the accounting department, right? I know you play a function, you know, as a liaison, or however that works. Maybe you do some of the work, I'm not sure. But you know, one of the things is, I mean, we don't care about the agency’s lack of resources. They need to get the job done, the same thing Dacia Johnson told me, Executive Director, when I was sharing about concerns about, you know, implementing my business, she said, how's that any different than any other, any other business? So, bottom line, how’s that any different from any other state agency? So, you know, we just appreciate and expect that those get done. No excuses. So, you know. Pass that on, please!

Morris: Yeah, no, Randy, I, I, I appreciate that feedback, and I understand. I think, I think if somebody was to run into, if Social Security was to come to somebody right this second, we could probably make that happen. But to do it for everybody in the program right this second, is not, it's not doable. And I, I think people just appreciate the background on it. Not an excuse. Just the facts of what's happening.

Hauth: Okay Lewanda, anything else on that before we move on?

Miranda: No, that's fine.

Hauth: Okay.

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Miranda: I'm gonna stay on this.

Hauth: What do we have next, Carole?

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Webber: Okay [inaudible]...

Hauth: Derrick, go ahead, Derrick, I'm sorry.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I just wanted to comment on the Social, Social Security thing. You know, most of the, most of the information that, that benefits us, that gets compiled by the Commission for the Blind, is, you know, like machines that we get, building rent that, that we get, and all that, all that kind of stuff that offsets our income. And it's not, it doesn't really have that much to do with whether or not you have an accounting person. It's something that, that's done every year, and it, and it doesn't really change a lot from year to year. I, I think you could, you know, stop the excuses and get, get the job done. Sorry if that's too blunt. But.

Hauth: All right, okay, anything else? What do we have next, Carole?

Webber: Okay, it is electronic payments for set-aside and other payments by VFMS, as an accommodation due to accessibility concerns around paper checks.

Hauth: Sure. So, this was brought to me here a few weeks back, by a vendor in the program, that said, you know, Randy, look it, how in the world? I can't even sign the check. I can't see the check. Why is the agency requiring me to do a handwritten check? You know, and if somebody isn't around to help me, then it's almost impossible, you know, and why do I…? You know, why can't we do electronic checks? I mean, this is 2023, most agencies, most businesses accept electronic check. Wouldn't that be an accommodation? Wouldn't that be an accessibility issue? And so, I said, well, let's put that on the agenda and find out. And I know we've had this talk before about, you know, signing, and, like people who are blind or visually impaired have trouble not only finding their doggone checkbook, but signing it, and mailing it and all those things. So, a lot of us rely on, you know, our sighted partners or advocates or aides. But why in the world isn't it okay for this agency to set up a system to accept credit card payments? Right? I know we talked to, maybe back in 2017 about electronic draft, or checks, or I forget what they call them. But…

Jackson: How about they get PayPal? Or?

Hauth: Hey, I think they're like, ACH, but those don't always work here, because those don't always show up on time. And if there is weather conditions, or you know, I mean, whatever it would be. So, why in the world can't we have an accessibility to pay by credit card? It's an easy way for a blind person to make their payment, and then you're making sure that you're not, you know, going to be late, or that the payment doesn't show up or so forth and so on. So, that's the discussion that we wanted to have. So.

Jackson: Steve Jackson.

Hauth: Hey, Steve, go ahead.

Jackson: I, I just yeah, I was just gonna, I just want to spitball the idea, too, is why, why can't, why can't the Commission accept Apple Pay, or, you know, like, why can't you just accept a debit card number over the phone? Like maybe, maybe we ask Ryan McBee to, to head it up and see what he can research, because if he's collecting set-aside...

Hughes: Can't hear you, louder.

Jackson: You know what I mean. Ryan McBee is collecting the set-aside check, he's cataloging stuff. I'm mailing in handwritten stuff. He's blind, like, let's just make it for every, easier for all the blind people. Let's just, you know, bring it to the 21st century somehow, be great.

Hauth: Yeah, so, I don't know how, I mean, I don't know if we make a motion to request the agency to accept electronic payments or set up a system to do it. Or if we, you know, have this discussion with Eric and have him come back with, you know, I mean, there's really no reason, even if the agency charged a small processing fee, or you know, whatever, whatever it would be. So, I'm just, you know, I don't know what the board wants to do, but.

Morris: Randy. We've [inaudible]…

Babcock: Randy, this is Michael.

Hauth: Michael, go ahead.

Babcock: I, I'm not sure if it's appropriate for me to make comments. But I'm trying to understand the issue. And I just want to make sure I'm, I'm understanding this. Set-aside money needs to be sent in as a check. Is that correct?

Hauth: Yes.

Babcock: Okay. Is there a reason that managers can't use their online banking tools that they're already using to do like a bill pay for that check?

Hauth: I think that's the ACH that, you know, I've used that in the past, Michael, and it doesn't always work. If there's like, let's say, if you're in January, you know a lot of times those are sent from not locally here. Right? So, they're, they're processed, and they're sent from a different way, and I've had trouble with those in the past. So, I guess maybe that's an option.

Babcock: So…

Hauth: But why wouldn't the credit card be an option?

Babcock: So, let me interrupt real quick, and then I will go back on mute and keep my mouth silent.

Hauth: And the trouble is I guess, one of the managers, you, you know, Steve, I mean, I don't know if you've ever looked into that. But again, I would support having, you know, an option for a card, too, because the managers are fined, like, if they mail it, like the way it is right now, if we mail a check in on the 18th and the 20th falls, or I mean, on this, on the 13th and the 15th falls on a Saturday, we get fined, right?

Babcock: Gotcha.

Hauth: So, it has to be in their hands by that certain date. So, I was just trying to have discussion around how that could be processed better.

Babcock: Okay.

Hauth: But so.

Babcock: Okay. Okay, I, I, I get that and I, I will go on mute, I just wanted to also just bring it to the committee's attention. If credit card payments would be accepted, then it would make a little sense that there may be a nominal fee to cover the typical 2.9% plus 30 cents per transaction that is encountered. So, just be conscious of that with decisions being made.

Hauth: Sure.

Babcock: And thank you for under--, for letting me ask.

Hauth: You bet, thank you, Michael.

Morris: Randy, did you want me to comment?

Hauth: What's that, Eric?

Morris: Did you, did you want me to make a comment?

Hauth: Yes, please.

Morris: So, you're right, you're right on the timeframe Randy, about... We talked about this, and I went back and, and dug it out too, in 2017, because I, I completely echo what Steve is saying. It's not easy to write a check as a blind person, and quite frankly, I didn't like writing checks before I lost my vision let alone afterwards. So, I, I can definitely understand that. I sent out into my, in my weekly update today the notes that I wrote down about online bill pay. And there's a, there's a slight difference between what Michael's talking about and what Randy is talking about, when it comes to the ACH transfer versus electronic check, as I understand it, and how I've seen my bills processed. So, if you're making a, a, an online bill payment through your bank to, let's say, a credit card, most of those, as I understand it, are handled as an ACH between the banks. So, it goes bank to bank. It usually happens within a day, it's done. But if you're sending it to a friend who lives down the street because it's more convenient to, to cut a check to them instead of when you, when you chase them down to pay them the 25 bucks you owe them, it will tell you if you send it... Or a better example is your garbage bill, because mine does this. It says if I send it on the 10th, it's gonna get to that person or that agency by the 20th, and, or like my water bill, it's always like 11 days to get there, because, as Randy pointed out, they're being mailed out of Seattle or somewhere like that for Chase Bank. So, it's one of those things that you can use the electronic system to do it. You just have to pay attention to the details about how long it's going to actually take to get there. And it's not the same depending on who you're sending it to. Now, on the topic of credit cards, I completely also agree with that. I think the agency should take credit cards across the board. But, as everybody pointed out, we're a government agency, and when you add government to things like this, it gets complicated. And my, my counterpoint was, hey, the, the DMV actually takes credit cards now. So, I know that accounting is exploring some of these options. The point that Michael brought up about a, a surcharge and stuff, I was, I kind of hesitated when I heard that, because it always triggers me if I have to use my credit card and have a surcharge. If that's not something too triggering to everybody on the call, I'll definitely pass that along, because it might be one of those things we'd have to do. But the agency does do a small business in canes and cane tips and different kind of visual aids and things of that sort, too. It would be a lot more convenient for people to pay, like, if I come in to buy a new cane, I, I, I literally have to go find my checkbook or get some cash because I'm not carrying cash. I, I just have a credit card with me. So, it's definitely something we've been looking at for quite a while. A couple of different versions of our CFO have looked at it. And I think we're getting close. But that online bill payment method is tried and true. And, you know, your bank, you're all, everybody, hopefully everybody’s online banking nowadays. So, if for some reason you're on this call, and you don't know what we're talking about, you can reach out to me offline, and we can talk through it. It's a little scary when you first start. I remember the first time I made a payment online. They can, this better work, and I sent like $5, just to see if it would actually post to my account. So, and that's been 20 years ago. So.

Hauth: Okay. Well, well, thank you, Eric, I guess I would just say it's an account receivable to the state. I believe all options should be open, and in today's day and age, why isn't a credit card available? Especially if a blind person believes that's an easier method for them to pay the payment. So, I’d, you know, I'd encourage the agency to look, you know, aggressively at allowing for something like that to happen. And you know, why not? Right? So, anyway. So.

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Hauth: Derrick, go ahead.

D Stevenson: Yeah, I'd like to know, debit cards are, are, are legal, legal options for people to have, and I don't not sure that the Commission for the Blind can say you can't use your debit card to pay your bills.

Hauth: Yeah, I think all options should be available. I mean, again, even if there's some kind of surcharge or whatever, it, you know…

Jackson: Can I say something real fast?

Hauth: I, I mean, I just think we can do better than we're doing now.

Jackson: Steve Jackson.

Hauth: Steve, go ahead.

Jackson: Well, he was saying, they, they collect money for canes and cane tips. What if we got a Square machine? Because they're free, and that way they'd be able to accept credit card numbers. You just have to be able to punch it in, or you just, they just have to figure out the, the loophole to make it go, make it work, because if it's a government thing, yeah, they're not collecting money for them, they're collecting money for something else. But you know, where does the money go for the canes? Like, they only accept cash? It's, yeah.

Hauth: Well, let's, let's see what Eric has to come back with, you know, hopefully, in your upcoming report here in the next week, you can, you know, explain to us what's, you know, what, you know… Obviously, you've heard our, you know, you’ve heard the position and the concerns and the request, so, hopefully the agency can find a way to make that happen. So.

Haseman: This is Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Go ahead, Linda.

Hauth: Yeah, I can tell you, I queued checks on the 24th, way ahead of the 24th, to issue on the 24th, for delivery guaranteed by the end of the month to individuals tied to Randy's business, and it hasn't happened, snow gets in the way. Holidays get in the way, a whole bunch of things actually happen. So, again, coming from my background and knowing that this is a state accounts receivable, and knowing that you guys need accessibility issues, there's no reason that there's not a whole bunch of accessibility options for you. If you guys want to pay by credit card and pay the additional fee just like your real estate taxes, there's no reason you can't choose that. The agency no longer, in my opinion, gets to say, oh, we're small, we can't do that. Well, you know what, Randy was a small business owner, and he was told multiple times, and again, I'm fact based, I have the information, doesn't matter. You need to get out there. So, in my opinion, doesn't matter. The agency needs to do something. It's accounts receivable for a sensibility of blind individuals. I'm pretty sure I'm making myself clear. I don't know how to even be any more than I am. I'm being respectful. I'm being polite, but I'm being direct. I'm not going to accept any longer that this agency can't do certain things. It's an accounts receivable for the state. Thank you.

Hauth: Okay, thank you. So, hopefully, we'll get some information back soon from you, Eric. So, thank you. What do we have next?

Webber: Okay, E under old business, and we've already discussed it because it would be a committee for the unassigned.

Hauth: Great, great, thank you. Thank you.

Webber: Okay. So, next will be new business. And the first one is survivor's policy.

Hauth: Okay, so, Lewanda, I. So, Lewanda and I had a conversation about this survivor’s policy, and so, I think I'll turn it over to her. But I know we want some clarity around it. I know within the state statue, if a vendor passes away, then that husband, wife, or domestic partner has the ability to wind down the operation for six months and receive the benefits from that. You and I both know that most vendors in this program rely, and across the land, they rely on their spouse or their, you know, if they have one, they rely on their spouse.

Miranda: Yeah.

Hauth: Or their, you know, kids, I mean, whatever it would be, their domestic partner, spouse. So, Lewanda, I'll turn that over to you, but I think she's looking for what the agency needs to know, to, and establish and make sure that in the unfortunate event that something like that happens, that there's no, like, roadblocks in the way, you know. So, go ahead, Lewanda.

Miranda: Yeah, and so that's found, for anybody that wants to look it up, that's found under 346.563 and that is what it is. It's a survi--, survivor’s policy. So, you know, the business would continue to operate for six months. We worked on this back December 2nd, 2010 and we adopted it. Walt Reyes accepted it. We had a policy, and I don't think that still exists with the agency. I think that went out the window somewhere. So, my question is, I believe that we need to become current. And if the agency could work on getting the beneficiary for each manager, who they would want, you know, because if something happens to me today, then what's Oscar going to do tomorrow? You know, so, we need to have that on file. Otherwise everyone, no one's going to know what to do.

Hauth: So, Eric, if you could, if you can figure that out. You know, what, what the managers need to put on record for the agency, so that there's no problem in the event that that ever happened. I do believe that Kathy Gerlitz was unfortunately one of the beneficiaries when Ken passed away.

Miranda: Yeah.

Hauth: If I remember correctly, I don't, I don't know all the detail. But, anyway, so.

Morris: Well, Randy.

Miranda: Let him talk.

Morris: I think, and, and Lewanda, Lewanda, I'll go back and try to find, I don't remember ever seeing that from December of 10. But I think probably the straight, more straightforward thing to do would be to develop a form that outlines beneficiaries, contact numbers and stuff like that and we just have it in the, the manager's file, you know, in case of emergency. We could work on building that form and I could push it back out to you guys.

Hauth: Yeah, that'd be a good start.

Miranda: That sounds great.

Hauth: Right, Lewanda?

Miranda: Yeah, perfect.

Hauth: Okay, okay, anything else on this before we move on?

Miranda: Nope.

Hauth: Okay, we're looking at 4:34 right now. So, what do we have next?

Webber: Okay, ADA training and procedure. Where has it been?

Hauth: Yeah, so, I, you, you know I know it might be a sensitive matter, Eric. I don't know what you can share, but you know, I guess my thought is, you know, there's so many vendors that have not only blindness disabilities, but secondary disabilities, and I think this whole forcing of this self-service initiative primarily exposed a lot of those because of the, what people believed was the barriers and the impact upon them. So, when I got, you know, and I was one of the first ones forced into self-service, and during that same time I was having secondary issues with my osteoarthritis and trying to navigate that whole thing. And you know, short, long story short, the agency did not, in my opinion, didn't care, and just said, get out there and do it, and didn't allow for me to navigate the health system prior to that implementation. So, and it's my understanding, too, when I got ahold of Disability Rights Oregon, that the agency didn't even have a form, they didn't have a process of grievance through the ADA and Title II, a lot of those things that you need to have. They didn't even have, I don't think, a point of contact at the agency. So, I guess I'm wondering why the agency, in my opinion, hasn't been very forthcoming and assistive and helpful for people who are suffering from secondary disabilities? They seem to be very guarded and protective and not very communicative. There's still been no training provided. You know, I've asked for training a couple of times, and there's been nothing. So.

Haseman: Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Linda, go ahead.

Haseman: Yeah, I know others have indicated, or think that they're well versed in ADA. I'm actually very well versed in ADA, had lots of trainings, been to a lot of conferences where attorneys presented. I understand Title II of the ADA. If the agency can't or won't, or chooses not to, again, either of those options, I'm more than willing to provide a training because it's important. Again, it goes back to my earlier comments. Disability and accessibility advocacy needs to happen. It's time! it's past the time. And people need to understand what their rights are, because there are rights out there. And I think in a lot of ways, you all have been just for whatever reason, the agency... Well, I know. I believe I know. I'm gonna state my opinion. It's easier if you guys don't know. You don't know what your rights are. They don't teach you. They don't train you. Oh, they bring in, let's see, they bring in people from Department of Administrative Services to teach you how to behave. They bring in Sean Brady to teach you how to do public meetings. They teach you how to make sure you're under control, and don't speak your mind and don't do what you're supposed to do when they don't like what you're supposed to do. They want to just, in Randy's case, discipline you. Try and take away his property right, until I was the individual that had to step up against all reservations and their own record. Again, I operate on facts. On our, all record, my reservation to go out there. Mr. Morris has in writing where, oh, the agency and all agencies or state entities were operating, paraphrase, at pre-pandemic levels. I'm hearing today, that's not the case. You know, Randy's persevered, and many of you have persevered because you've had to all of your life. And that I will applaud. But if training needs to happen, and the agency won't give it to you, I'll give it to you.

Hauth: Thank you Linda. So, Eric, what about training? I mean, I know this isn't a secret, we've had conversations around this before, and I assume you've had conversation, but what can you share, what can you say why isn't training being provided or have been provided?

Morris: So, Randy. I, I guess my question is, and this may seem like a silly question, because I, I thought I knew the answer. You're talking about training for the VFMs Correct?

Hauth: Yes.

Morris: Okay. Cause I, I'm not quite sure what that training would look like. I, I am not an HR expert like Linda talks about. I can look into that and see what kind of training can be provided? But I just wanted to make sure that you were talking about training for you guys.

Hauth: Yeah.

Morris: Okay.

Hauth: And have you had any training, Eric, on ADA Title II?

Morris: No.

Hauth: Okay, so and that's another, you know, not to, not to, like, like belabor the issue, but again, you know, the agency should understand it, too. You should be trained, right? Executive Director should be trained. I mean, everybody should know the rights and how those apply. And of course, the managers need to know their rights as well. So.

Haseman: And I'm going to state it for the record, just because I'm Human Resources doesn't mean that it's just about employees. I know all about ADA and it encompasses a lot, including special programs. So, you don't have to be human resources trained to understand it all. And everybody needs to start getting up to speed because it's important. And again, I know maybe everybody's getting tired of me saying it right now. Time is now. There's no reason disabled people are not understanding what all their disabilities encompass and though I'm home, human resources trained, oh, trust me, I've got a breadth of information because it encompasses a whole bunch of stuff, including Title II of the ADA.

Hauth: Okay, thank you. So yeah, Eric, get back with us on that, please. I, you know, again, here you are, no disrespect intended, but here you are, you know, to deal with my request, or others’ requests on reasonable accommodations, and you haven't even been trained in it, right? So, I think a person other than just using common sense, I think they need to understand applicability and how that all works. So, just, you know, please have the conversation with the other managers that you deal with. So.

A Stevenson: Hey, Randy?

Hauth: Yes, Art?

A Stevenson: I, I wanted to make a comment on that. Obviously, reasonable accommodations are very important under the ADA and you know, all of a sudden, there was an application that was put on our website that the managers had to fill out. That was put together by, I assume, the gentleman from the Department of Administrative Services. But I'm not absolutely sure. And I think that form was put together, you know, after your circumstances came up. But again, you know, there was no active participation concerning that, you know, a form was put together, and then it was decided that somebody was going to decide whether it was a reasonable accommodation or not. And you know, those, those are obviously very concerning things, but again, you know, all this stuff cropped up all of a sudden without any active participation, and I know we made a recommendation, I believe it was at the last meeting, that you know, a panel be formed with somebody on the Elected Committee, somebody maybe from OCB. But that it, it would be a joint decision on whether it was a reasonable accommodation, not just a one-sided decision on whether it was a reasonable accommodation, and, and of course, I forget exactly what Eric's statement was on that when we made that motion last time. But I do believe, you know, that again, forms were made without active participation, any of our input or any of that. And that's just a violation of the law. I mean, we're, we're the Elected Committee and we're supposed to make decisions on things that are supposed to be beneficial for the blind licensed managers. And, and again, we're left out of the process, concerning all that. And so, I'm, I'm glad Linda wants to provide some training on that. I think it's super duper, duper, duper and I do also think you know, that we should be able to weigh in on what a reasonable accommodation is, because we represent the, the managers, and the agency is supposed to provide reasonable accommodations, not decide arbitrarily and capriciously if it is a reasonable accommodation or not. It needs to be joint decision making and so, hopefully, you know, that's going to be addressed. But I'm still very, very concerned that we're not being a part of that process on deciding what's reasonable or not.

Hauth: Thank you, Art. So, duly noted. We have about 13 minutes left in the meeting. So, I wonder what else we have?

Webber: We have two more items left.

Hauth: Carole, if you can carry on…

Webber: Yeah. Yeah, there's two more items under new business, and then we have number six. So, C is BECC Quarterly Financial Report.

Hauth: Okay, the financial report, you know, I think we can maybe put that off ‘til the next meeting. I know Linda was going to look over it, and some other things came up, so, she didn't have a chance to. But I don't know if Eric wants to, you know, or anybody else on the call wants to identify any items on there or have any questions around it. But if you do, please do, and if not, we'll go ahead and move on to the next agenda item. Oh, go ahead.

Haseman: Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Go ahead, Linda.

Haseman: Yeah, I want to make sure that, you guys are receiving the unassigned vending report tied to all the subcontractors that are paying into the agency. I can tell you that even though I haven't had a time to look over the entirety of it, it does appear like there's a vendor named KDL, subcontractor, that may not have a business license, just questioning that. Again, I'm about facts, so I take the time to dig in and look. I took snapshots of it about a month ago, and I'm pretty sure they do not. There's also some interesting dynamics behind the new entity that I know Teresa Fields or whoever introduced. They actually were like a cust--, custodian or cleaning or janitorial service, and somehow they all of a sudden became in food service. I haven't quite got to the bottom of that, because again, I choose to dig in. Get the facts. I'm not going to be non-specific, but I am saying there are maybe some concerns with the subcontractors that the agency has chosen to subcontract with. I know in the past I mentioned Handy Vending had not had their license correct with the Secretary of State. That was a couple of years ago. I think they rectified it around the time I mentioned it. I know you guys are held to a certain accountability level. And actually, I have no problem with accountability level. I do have a problem when it's not applied correctly.

Hauth: Thank you, Linda. Yeah, you know, I thought that we were supposed to be receiving the unassigned report in more detail than we're receiving. I thought Art, few years ago requested that, motioned it, and I don't know that we're receiving that information or not, I can tell you, 38 years ago, I believe it was, I started in this program as a snot nose kid, and I revisited the Hillsboro Courthouse where I started my cafe. I, I visited that several days ago. And I got to thinking about all the time that has passed between then and now. All the people that have come and gone through this program. And as I was walking into the Public Service Building, I noticed that there's a espresso cart there that's supposed to be under our priority that's being run by a sighted company. Again, I love people who are sighted. They help me get around, right? I'd have to walk a lot further without that. But anyway, just a, a little bit of a joke. But I walked in, and here they are running a facility that's supposed to be in our review purview, and I know that that's been brought to the agency's attention before. So, I'm not sure what that is about. But quickly, just thinking back, you know, Bob, Rushing, and the Mennings, and all the people that have been advocates, you know, it's no time to stop. It's time to step it up and fight for the rights of us being disabled. Looking through the paperwork from people who are private companies, as we did a couple of years ago, people were allowed not to pay on time, they were allowed not to pay. They were given a lot more graces than we the blind, the participants of this program were or are given, and I just I can't understand that. I never could then, and I still can't. But we're gonna continue to advocate and make sure that we have equal footing at the decision-making table. So.

Haseman: Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Yeah, Linda, go ahead.

Haseman: I know a couple of months ago, maybe longer than that, the question was asked if those sighted subcontractors that are all on the list tied to the agency's website pay late fees when they don't pay on time. I know the answer to that was, well, no, but that's a good question. Maybe we should check into that and address it. I want to know, being very respectful, but being very direct, has that occurred? Because I, we, I don't know. You guys are fined, I know, for a fact you guys are fined $50 here, there, and everywhere if you don't meet the agency’s directive. I want to know, I think that's a song, I want to know, are those subcontractors paying on time? And if not, are they fined? And if not, why not? Again, respectful but direct.

Hauth: Thank you, Linda. Hey, just a quick question, Eric. Are, are subcontractors fined who pay late?

Morris: No, Randy, they're not. That's not in their contract.

Hauth: Okay. Yeah, so, what, anybody else on this before we move on? Okay, what do we have next, Carole?

Webber: It is status of Coastal and Albany vending routes.

Hauth: So, can you tell us the status of the Coastal and the Albany-Corvallis-Lebanon vending routes?

Morris: Randy, I assume you're talking to me?

Hauth: Yes.

Morris: Yeah. So, there, there hasn't been any change from the last time we discussed either one of those routes. The Sheridan Prison continues to be closed to vending, which was the main source of income for the Coastal route, and I told Steve's family that I would not talk about Steve's route, so, there we are.

Hauth: So, is there a vendor assigned to the Lebanon vending route?

Morris: Yes.

Hauth: Okay. Thank you. Okay, anybody else?

Haseman: Linda Haseman.

Hauth: Go ahead, Linda.

Haseman: Yeah. I think you, maybe Lewanda, Carole Randy, Art, whoever, should probably request a list of assigned, the vending facilities, and assigned manager. It’d answer a lot of questions, thank you.

Hauth: Alright, any other comments before we go?

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Hauth: Hey, look, we had a lot of discussion, and we got done in time. My goodness, that's pretty amazing.

D Stevenson: This is Derrick.

Hauth: But you guys, I wanted to thank Ted and I wanted to thank Gary, and I wanted to thank Michael, and especially all you guys, too, for joining in, right?

Hughes: We're with you.

Hauth: And you know, just like Ted was saying, he'd like as we go forward, he'd like us to help and assist and participate because we are the voice of this program. So, we'll be reaching out and supporting those efforts forward and make, make this program what it should be, right? How many vendors do we have? 12? How ridiculous, right? We should have 30, you know. So, let's, you know, let's work on trying to make this a better, better program. Frankly speaking, I think the leadership at the agency needs to change, because I believe the Executive Director is a blocker. I believe she's vindictive personally, and she is limiting and oppressive and that is not a good combination when you're dealing with people who are blind and in business, so, get rid of the control and get rid of the power. And let's all work together to make this a better program and put blind people to work, right? So, thank you very much, everybody.

A Stevenson: Randy!

Hughes: Thank you for allowing us to attend and listen. We're smarter now than we were when we started the program. I want you to know that and we, was helpful just listening. And we never went to sleep, once.

Hauth: Good deal!

Hughes: Bye.

D Stevenson: This is Derrick. Can you hear me?

Hauth: Thanks a lot.

A Stevenson: Randy!

Hauth: Good night, everyone.

A Stevenson: Recognize Derrick!

Hauth: Go Boston Celtics!

A Stevenson: Randy! Randy!

Miranda: Randy. Derrick…

Hauth: Yes, yes?

A Stevenson: Recognize Derrick! He's been trying to get recognized for.

Hauth: Well, you know, what? I've never denied Derrick's participation. I love Derrick's participation and I love Derrick. So, Derrick go for it.

D Stevenson: Am I off mute?

Hauth: You are off mute.

A Stevenson: Yeah, now you are.

D Stevenson: I just, I just want to say, that the majority of the problems with this program is the fact that the OCB Board, who is the state licensing agency, Dacia is not the state licensing agency, she's just an employee, and until we're able to communicate with the Oregon Commission for the Blind when we have concerns. It's never going to get better, and that's what we got to push for is, is to get a board that cares what we think and cares that there's problems, and that the, the current people working for the Commission for the Blind are costing the state, you know, thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars. And that's, that in my opinion, is where we need to start, is getting the board to stop, step up and start letting us actively participate when we have concerns.

Hauth: Yeah, I would, I would agree with you.

D Stevenson: [inaudible] discussion.

Hauth: Yeah, I would, I would agree with you, I would agree with you, Derrick. We are the blind, the consumers of this agency. You know, my, my only concern is that, unfortunately, Dacia, I would agree with you, the board is a controlling body, but Dacia manipulates them, in my opinion, and she gets them to do her bidding unfortunately. But that does need to change. They should have autonomy, they shouldn't be pulled and directed in what to do. So.

A Stevenson: Randy.

D Stevenson: [inaudible] let me.

Hauth: Yes.

A Stevenson: Randy, this is Art.

Hauth: Yes, Art?

A Stevenson: Are you going to recognize, am I off mute?

Hauth: You are.

A Stevenson: Okay, I just want to state, okay, the Elected Committee unanimously rejected the rules and the quote unquote operating agreement, unanimously. The state statutes require, okay, that rules and regulations ensure the proper and satisfactory operation of the vending facilities, and for the benefit of the blind licensed managers. The agency, okay, is supposed to work with the Elected Committee to adopt rules that ensure, you know, blind, the blind managers’ rights, and they still haven't done that. They need to get off the duff and finally rewrite the rules, so they do benefit the blind licensed managers, and they do ensure the proper and satisfactory operation of the vending facility. Because that's the way they're supposed to be done. And until they are, we don't have rules and regulations or an operating agreement that is in compliance with the law. We tried to work with the agency, made recommendations, actually a couple of times had good things that we were gonna vote yes on. And then of course, the agency turned around and said, no, you're not gonna do it. You're gonna do what we say period, and that's it. And they need to comply with the law. They need to work with the agency and finally write rules that comply with the law. And until they do, we're going to continue to have problems. And so, this program is for the blind licensed managers, not for the agency, and they're supposed to work with us, not against us, in ensuring the things that the law require. So, again, Director Morris, we stand ready to write rules that are in compliance with the law, and ensure those things which, according to our state statutes, you're required to do. Thank you very much. Everybody have a good night.

Hauth: Thank you. Let's go ahead and adjourn the meeting.

Unidentified: Night, everyone. Love you all.

Morris: Hope you have a safe weekend.

Webber: Night everybody.

**Motions Passed**

1. **“…that BECC approve April 20th 2023 meeting minutes**

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