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

**Monday, June 7, 2021**

**3:30 PM—5:00 PM**

OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

**Agenda**

• Any agenda item may become an action item.

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

1. Called to order- Chairman Hauth.
   1. Roll call
2. Open discussion.
3. Discussion and vote for consideration of resolution of OAH case #2020-ABC-03935.
4. Adoption technical assistance guidance provided by RSA relevant to definition of “active participation”.
5. Revamp “Facility/Development” committee.
6. NFBEI subscription renewal.
7. Adjournment.

**Transcript**

Hauth: Okay, well, let's go ahead and do a roll call and call the meeting to order and make sure that we have a quorum. So let me start by calling on the board members. Do we have Art Stevenson? How about Derrick Stevenson? Do we have Steve Jackson?

Jackson: I'm here. Hi guys.

Hauth: Hey, Hey, Steve.

Miranda: Hi Steve.

Hauth: How about Lin, how about Lin Jaynes? Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: Here.

Hauth: Then we have Randy Hauth. I'm here. Who else is on the line? If you could announce yourself, that would be great.

Garcia: Trevor Garcia.

Kinney: Carole Kinney.

Hauth: Hey, Carol. Hey, Trevor. I just got a text message from Art. He's trying to get the information for the meeting. So, I don't know if anybody could send him that, or if you guys want to take just a minute, I'll try and send it to him. He says [inaudible]...

Bever: Shawn Bever is also here.

Hauth: Hey, Shawn.

Miranda: Hi Shawn. Yeah, Randy, go ahead.

Bever: Hey.

Hauth: Okay. Let me find it here. Okay. I got it. I'll email it to him. There we go, we got that. Okay. It's on its way. And I am going to, I am going to call Steve Jackson.

Jackson: Yes, sir.

Miranda: Steve's here!

Hauth: Errr, oh, and Steve, I'm sorry, sorry.

Miranda: Lin Jaynes.

Hauth: Oh, I meant Lin, I meant Lin Jaynes. Yeah.

Miranda: All right.

Hauth: Okay, right back. Hey, everybody, just made it back. I think there's seven people online now. I don't know if Art has joined us yet, but I did send him that email, so...

Miranda: Did you get a hold of Lin?

Hauth: No, I did not. So, but if Art joins us, we'll, we'll have a quorum in case we want to, you know, make any action items.

Miranda: Okay.

Hauth: So, anyway, sorry for the delay, guys, but... How's everybody doing? All right?

Miranda: Yeah.

Hauth: Don't, don't, don't all talk at once.

Garcia: Business is good. Business is good.

Hauth: Oh! You're opened up, Trevor. Yeah, I was thinking about you, so... Yeah, how do you like your new place?

Garcia: Oh, it's nice. It's just, I love the set up, you know, it's great. You know, we're, we're still quite slow. And we just recently increased our hours to try and draw in more people. We gave out some gift cards and we're trying to drum up more business, so...

Hauth: Sure.

Garcia: [inaudible] slowly... I mean, our sales are definitely down, but on average, I think our averages are higher in May than most of the year, so... Last week...

Hauth: Have they given you any projections of when they will bring back like full, full court or full staffing? Or if ever? Or what's...

Garcia: Well, I've heard speculation that they believe they're going to be bringing most of the people back by the end of June, which is quite optimistic, but they, for sure, by September they're, they're saying that every, most everybody should be back at that, that will need to be in... I'm not sure what the figure, the figures look like, but I'm guessing, you know, even if we can get the building at 50%, that would be...

Hauth: Sure. Well, you know, I mean, I mean the court, the court system is, I mean, obviously a necessity, right? It's not like maybe something that can be done from home, you know, in a lot of instances. So, I'm sure that the court system will be brought back first before most anything else, you know? But anyway. Yeah. So, yeah, well yeah, good luck. I mean, I hope, you know, it looks like things are heading in the right direction, slow for sure, but it will be, it will be a different environment for sure. For some of us, if not for all of us. But, hey, Art, have you joined in yet?

Jaynes: Chairman Hauth, I'm on. This is Lin.

Hauth: Oh, Lin, Lin, thank you for joining, so much. I know you, I know you were busy. Thanks for joining. Let's go ahead and move for--

Stevenson, Art: I'm here.

Hauth: Oh, good.

Stevenson, Art: I am sorry.

Hauth: So, anyway, we'll go ahead and move forward. What do we have first on the agenda there, Lewanda, or...?

Jackson: Adoption of minutes.

Miranda: Open discussion.

Hauth: Open discussion. Okay. Yeah. So, this is, Steve, this was a special minutes, or a special meeting that was called. We don't have the adoption of the minutes, we'll have to carry that over to the next meeting. But so, I'll just start out by saying for those of you who don't know, or even those of you who do, this was called in regards to some discussion that occurred relative to a complaint that's going through the Office of Administrative Hearings, and that, that complaint deals with, you know, unassigned vending and the vending that the agency, you know, in our, in our, from our perspective hasn't been assigning or bidding out to managers, you know. So, there were some discussions around that, most recently trying to find a way to resolve that outside of the administrative hearings process. Even now a person might be right as rain, the administrative hearing process from all accounts, my opinion and many others, isn't necessarily a fair process, even though they call it a fair hearing, it is weighted in the favor of different agencies that are going through that, including Oregon Commission for the Blind, that if you go back and check the records, that's what happens. So, the administrative hearings is a step to arbitration, has to go through that and build the case and get things on record to be able to go to arbitration. And then you request from RSA arbitration if you're not satisfied with the decision. But with all that said, I mean, those things take a lot of time, take a lot of effort, and energy, and money from both sides. The agency spends money and, you know, the, the managers do as well. So, the thought was, is there a way to have the agency make a commitment to us to say, hey, lookit, we'll, we'll, you know, we'll work on, we'll work and commit to putting these locations out to bid that you question will work and commit to assigning vending, or you're on a quarterly basis minus the monies that were dedicated by the budget to a halftime position. Anyway, so that was basically the crux of the conversation, and I know everybody was copied on it. I believe there's 11 complaints initially that were signed on to this complaint. And then I believe there was an action taken by the Elected Committee to advocate on behalf of those committee member--errr, those complainants. And so that brings us here today to consider what does the committee want to do as far as, you know, the... I don't know what I would call it, but the proposal, I guess, is what I would call it, that Gretchen Merrill confirmed in her email last Thursday, I think it was. So, is that something that we want to do as a committee moving forward and get back to the drawing board, revamp the, you know, the committee for assignment and, and you know, work hard to, you know, make some constructive change in our program, as far as opening up locations for people? Or, you know, what it would be...So, I think that's what basically brings us here today. And then there's a couple other things on the agenda. I believe it was the NABM subscription service, that I know last year, the agency, because of things being so uncertain, decided not to re-engage in that service, subscription service. I do know that's something that I think has been very valuable to a lot of vendors and a lot of state agencies alike. And one of the reasons that managers were beneficiaries of the FRRP money. Thank you. If I remember that right. And some other things, and I know that NABM, NFBEI has assisted agencies including ours and kind of providing some guidance. So that's one thing we wanted to talk about also, and then kind of validating, verifying the RSA technical assistance that deals with active participation. And so, I don't know that there was anything else on there, but it kind of sums it up. Is there anybody that has, being we're in open discussion, is there anybody that has any discussion about any of those things or, you know, wants the floor before we move forward? Going once, going twice? Okay. Three times, I guess, nobody at this point in time has anything to say in open discussion. Can you tell me what's the first agenda item?

Miranda: Discussion and vote for resolution of OAH case number 2020-ABC-203935.

Hauth: Okay. Hey, Eric. So, is there anything that I left out or is there anything that you want to add or, you know, how is that...?

Morris: I think Ran-- Randy, I think you summarized it pretty well. I think Lewanda just sent out a note a little while ago before the meeting that encompassed the discussions between the agency and the parties of the complaint and what the, basically the settlement agreement was, with the points. So, I'm not sure I really have anything to add.

Hauth: Okay. Any board members have anything to, you know, what's your, what's your thoughts on this?

Miranda: Chairman Hauth, [inaudible] possible that I did add to the proposal was where I had the reasonable time, which Gretchen [inaudible] to not to notice that those two facilities would be out by August 15th, 2021.

Hauth: Okay.

Miranda: That's it.

Hauth: Okay. So, are, you have any thoughts on this? I mean, what's your, what's your, you know, or Lin, or Steve, or Art, you guys have anything on this?

Jackson: Steve Jackson.

Hauth; Steve, go ahead.

Jackson: I, I liked it, Lewanda, Lewanda added the time restraint because I think Eric said that, you know, he would put it out by August? Or, or I saw a little bit of back and forth, but I just want to make sure that that's in writing somewhere that they will be going out to bid by a certain date.

Miranda: Yes, I did put in the proposal.

Jackson: Yeah. That's, well, that's great then. I just, I was just double checking.

Miranda: Okay.

Hauth: Okay, and I mean, you know, Lin, do you have anything or Art?

Stevenson, Art: I'm off mute, Randy?

Hauth: Yes, you are. Yes, you are.

Stevenson, Art: Okay. So, the plan here now is for hopefully that OCB is going to be willing to sign this agreement, which means that, you know, I don't know if it would be Eric or Dacia, but however, the commission board, I believe, would also have to vote on the agreement. And then once, once that's done, each manager is on the complaint would also have to sign the agreement. But I do believe that there needs to be a signed agreement with all parties involved placing their names or voting in the case of the commission board to accept that it, that the process that is going to be done, because obviously there has to be, you know, a signed agreement to what's proposed here by all parties, in my best guess. So, is that what is going to occur?

Hauth: Eric, what are your thoughts on that? You know, I mean, I'll just say, I know that, you know, bottom line, if there a signed agreement or not, and I, I hear what you're saying, Art, but if there's a signed agreement or not, you know as well as I do, you know, it could be breached by the agency. So, in my mind's eye and I'm just sharing here, you know, I think the commitment that was made by the agency by way of Gretchen Merrill, I think that it probably commits the agency to doing what they're saying they're going to do. And I do think, you know, that this is without prejudice. So, if it goes off the rails, I do believe that, you know, this can be revisited or a new complaint, but I mean, bottom line, I know there's not trust on either side, or not very good trust. But moving forward, my thought is, you know, the agency is making this commitment and even though we might not, you know, again, signed or not, it's not going to matter, you know, but it might be good to say, hey, let's work together and let's get these locations opened up. Let's get them assigned either temporarily or permanently. Let's, you know, get this unassigned, vending out to people and let's work, even though we might be at odds, let's work to try and make things, you know, a little better for managers or new managers coming in. But Eric, so what are your, I mean, that's just my thoughts and I could be wrong, but it's kind of where I was, you know, thinking and going with this. But have you had any discussion, Eric, about what Art's talking about, about a signed agreement or...?

Morris: Well, Randy, no, I haven't had any discussions about it. I think, like you said, basically the commitment from Gretchen, which obviously, you know, she's, she's our attorney, that once it's in writing, she didn't do that on our own basically. So, the board wouldn't need to sign off on something like this, I don't think. And you know, we've, we've said, hey... I mean, we wouldn't be at this point talking about it if I didn't think we could do it. So, you know, that's, what's in writing is what we're going to do. So...

Hauth: Yeah.

Morris: I have, we haven't talked about a big sign off from everybody. I'm assuming you guys have talked to all the parties that signed onto the agree--, onto the complaint and they're willing to drop it. So... Yeah.

Hauth: Yeah. And I know, I know efforts, I know efforts were made. Several efforts were made. I do think that some people responded and maybe some people didn't. So, you know, I don't, I don't know how that all plays in. I do know that the Elected Committee was asked to represent the complainants and, you know, like, I, I don't envision... I think most people signed on it. Not only did they feel that what the agency was doing was not proper, I mean, I'll just be frank about that, but they signed on it as a voice of support to, hey, let's get this addressed. And I think where we are now is a good thing. You know, if it works out or not, you know, time will tell. I hope it does. But, you know, Art, I don't know. I mean, I don't know that they're going to sign anything further. I do know that the agency wanted to see where we were as far as committing to this so that we could get a hold of the administrative law judge, because there's a hearing coming up on, I think, the 26th. And say, hey, lookit, we've reached, you know, when you've reached some agreement here, so we're going to work, or drop the complaint, or we're this way. But Lin, I know we haven't heard from you [inaudible] if you have anything...

Stevenson, Art: Hey, Randy?

Hauth: Yes, Art. Go ahead.

Stevenson, Art: Randy. Randy. Okay, well I just want to make sure all the dot, the T, the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed and, and that the proper protocol is followed. I know, in the past to remove your name from a complaint, or to drop the complaint, there had to be something in writing. And, and so that's why I brought this up, you know, so that we make sure that, you know, all the proper protocol is completed. So, there isn't any controversy or any of that. And I, you know, if Eric, you know, I know Gretchen said that OCB agreed to that. And so obviously all I want to make sure is that we dot our I's and cross our T's and the documentation is there that, you know, all the managers have signed off on it and that we're following proper protocols. So that's why I brought it up because we most definitely want to do that. And as a member of the Elected Committee, I want to make sure that, you know, everything's done in accordance to Hoyle, so there isn't any controversy or anything, and that we've done everything that should be done in this legal matter. So, that's why I brought it up. I don't know if Eric wants to go back to Gretchen and say, so that we make this all official and everything, what should we do? You know, so there isn't going to be any controversy or any of that kind of stuff. So

Hauth: Yeah.

Stevenson, Art: I'll let it go at that. Certainly I, I don't think it hurts anything for, you know, all those documents to be put on the record. You know, just, just makes business sense to me. So anyways, I'll go back on mute, and you can see if anybody else has a comment.

Hauth: Sure.

Morris: Yeah, Randy?

Jaynes: Hey. Yes. Chairman Hauth? I was off, I was... Yeah.

Hauth: Yeah, Lin, Lin and then Eric.

Jaynes: Yeah. I was, I was on mute. So, I... By the time I got off, Art was talking, I agree with Art in, in one aspect. I think everything does need to be documented, but I do believe all the managers from the ones I talked to already signed off, including myself, off of it. So, I'm not sure it would be a major thing to just draw one simple piece of paper that, you know, for all of the time. My thoughts are along those lines.

Hauth: Okay. Thank you, Eric.

Morris: I was just going to say, Randy, I think Gretchen's intent was to communicate after this meeting with OH--,or, with the office of administrative hearings, and they may give us some guidance about the best way... 'Cause I know the, the law judge before was getting individual emails back from complainants to, you know, confirming stuff and things of that sort, so they may be able, may be able to guide us on the correct process for these type of things that the OH--, office of administrative hearings, on an OAH level.

Hauth: Okay. I will, I will say, you know, Art, Art does bring up a good point because, you know, I know that occurred. I know the agency had received withdrawals of complaints from managers. And so, I mean, you know, I don't know if it's improper to get a [inaudible] from the Board on this proposal, you know. Or if, you know, or Lewanda, if you could kinda share, you know, you sent, did you send, you, sent this out and have you asked for feedback from managers, have you heard from them, not heard from them? I don't remember exactly what it was. But if we could get a feel for that, and then if maybe we could touch base with the Board and just say, you know, you know, tentatively, are you supportive of this and what do we need to do to, you know... Or aren't you? I mean, whatever, but go ahead, Lewanda, if you can.

Miranda: Yeah, Chairman Hauth. Everyone that I heard from was for it.

Hauth: Was there anybody you didn't hear from, you know, of the complainants?

Miranda: Oh yeah. There was several people that I didn't hear from. It [inaudible]... I got to go through that thing. It's Art and Derrick, I didn't hear from. Celyn.

Hauth: I don't think Celyn was on it, was she? No, Celyn wasn't on it.

Miranda: [inaudible] I'm, I'm sorry about that.

Hauth: Yeah. Yeah. That's all right.

Miranda: Okay. Art. Derrick, I didn't hear from. Steve Gordon.

Hauth: Okay.

Miranda: That's it.

Hauth: Okay. Well, I did, Steve Gordon, you know, I don't know on this complaint. I know they, you know, kept calling Art Stevenson et al., but I think Steve Gordon never actually ever confirmed when initially on. I don't think Steve Gordon ever actually reconfirmed that he wanted to be on this complaint when they were doing that early on, but somehow he remained on it, but bottom line, can I get kind of a feeling from, you know, from like you Lewanda, you know, if this is something that, you know, you would support or what, you know, what needs to happen for the support, get support or, you know, Lin, Steve Jackson, Art, if we can just go down the line and hear from you guys so we know, that would be great. So, anyway, Lewanda?

Miranda: Well, I, I support it. And I think that if we have a vote by the board, and that's good. And then tomorrow Gretchen would be submitting it to judge Fair. And then I don't know the legal aspects of it. And I trust that Art does. And so if there's something else that we need to do further, then, then we'll do it at that time.

Hauth: Okay. How about you, Lin?

Jaynes: Yeah, I, I support it. I did before and I do again.

Hauth: Okay. Steve? Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Sorry. I was on mute. Yeah. I support, I support moving forward and as long as things go the way they need to go.

Hauth: Okay. Art? Are you off mute?

Stevenson, Art: Okay, am I off mute?

Hauth: Yes, you are.

Stevenson, A: Okay, well, what I think we need to do, to dot our I’s and cross our T’s, in accordance with the Randolph Sheppard Act, we're supposed to receive, transmit, and advocate for blind licensed managers, and as a member of the Elected Committee, I would like, like to make a motion that we recommend to the complainants, that they accept and sign off on this agreement with the Commission for the Blind concerning the complaint.

Hauth: Okay. A motion's been made. Do we have a second on that? You know what, I will go, I will go ahead and, I will go ahead and second that. I think as, you know, I think it supports what we need to do, but before we take a vote, I want to open it up for discussion and see if there's any concerns with [inaudible] from Eric or the agency on that.

Morris: No, Randy, I don't have any concerns. I think, I think what Lewanda said it, said it best. Once we let Judge Fair know, and just, just so everybody's aware, the hearing's set for next Tuesday, a week from tomorrow. So...

Hauth: Yeah, okay.

Morris: Once we let, then we can, we can formalize it in whatever way needs to be done.

Hauth: Sure. Well, I think that, I think the motion recommends, you know, the position by the agency that the complaintants sign, I, you know, that accept this. So, I think it's important what we're trying to do and it also, you know, kinda clarifies that, hey, guys, you need to, you know, sign on this or whatever. And like you said, if, if, you know, I think this will give the agency what they need. And then if there's other things we need to do, that's fine. But, anyway, any other discussion before we vote on this? Okay, hearing no other discussion. Motion's been made, there's a second, yea or nay, Art Stevenson?

Stevenson, A: Am I off mute?

Hauth: You are.

Stevenson, A: Okay, I vote yea.

Hauth: Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: I vote nay.

Hauth: Lin Jaynes?

Jaynes: Yea.

Hauth: Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Yea.

Hauth: And I will vote yea, as well. So, the motion passes with one nay vote. So, anyway, so, you know, I think we're going to take that in the right direction. So, hopefully that gives you what you need, Eric. And what do we have next on the agenda, Lewanda?

Miranda: Adoption technical assistance provided by RSA regarding active participation.

Hauth: Okay. All right. Thank you, thank you, thank you so much. So, you know, I mean, active participation, you know, what more can we say. [inaudible] the lifeblood of the relationship between the Elected Committee of Blind Vendors and the agency, and just because it's written down doesn't mean that it always occurred, you know? Just depends on the relationship and the mindset of the agency, and I guess the mindset of the committee, but, you know, we've put a lot of things in writing over the years. I mean, it wasn't too many years back that we worked so hard to put a active participation definition and it got revoked by the commit--, the commissioners which was, in my opinion, ridiculous, embarrassing, and shameful. I know there's been a lot of contention back and forth. You know, the committee is not always right, but, you know, listen, neither is the agency and neither are the commissioners. But we got to get back to a place to work together better and more effective and make things happen. I know when we have language within, you know, our rules that are, you know, concerning to some. And I know we have language within the state statute that guides, you know, what active participation is supposed to be, and we have it within the CFR, right? And so forth and so on. I think the technical assistance provided by RSA should be adopted by the committee as another supportive tool that clearly identifies that, you know, this is what the committee is supposed to be doing with the agency. And this is, you know, basically what, what we want the agency to support and allow us. So that's what brings us here today for this. I dunno if anybody wants to make a motion to adopt that, or if there's any discussion before that Anybody want to make a motion? You're on mute, Art, if... Go ahead, Lewanda. Lewanda [inaudible].

Miranda: I'll make a motion to adopt--can you hear me?

Hauth: Yes.

Miranda: I'll make a motion to adopt the RSA definition of active participation.

Hauth: Okay, and do I have a second on that?

Jackson: I'll second that.

Hauth: Okay, any discussion around that? Okay, and just to clarify that the technical assistance provided by RSA that defines active participation. And so, I'll go ahead and take a vote on that. Yea or nay, Art Stevenson?

Jackson: We can't hear you, Art.

Hauth: I think you're on, you're on mute, Art. We'll move forward to Lewanda Miranda.

Miranda: Yea.

Hauth: Lin Jaynes?

Jaynes: Yea.

Hauth: Steve Jackson?

Jackson: Yes.

Hauth: I'll vote yea, as well. Art, are you back on the line yet?

[Unidentified]: Hopefully.

Stevenson, A: Yep.

Hauth: Okay, you are now. Okay.

Stevenson, A: I'll vote yea, Randy.

Hauth: Okay. Motion passes. And what do we have next on the agenda?

Miranda: Revamp facility development.

Hauth: Okay. You know, I don't know, Art, I don't know, Art, if you were the chair of... I got, I'm sorry, I got a little bit confused, 'cause I know that we had a commissary development and then we, you know, had a facility development, but I do think it would be good to revamp that and get, you know, if you still want to be involved in it, I'd love to have you involved in it. But I personally, at this point in time would like to get maybe, you know, a manager like Carole or Harold, or even, you know... I don't know if there's anyone else out there that wants to be involved in working with, you know, we want a couple members of the committee of course, on that. And Art, if you're willing to be on that, I think that's great. And then, you know, I think Lewanda you know, or Lin, or...

Stevenson, Art: Randy?

Hauth: Yes. Yes, Art.

Stevenson, Art: Okay. First of all, let me officially resign as the chair so that you can do what you want [inaudible]. You can assign or the Elected Committee can do that. And yeah, I will go ahead and participate, but at this point in time, I, I will resign as the chair of that committee. Okay? So that means you can do what you want.

Hauth: Okay, and well, that's probably, yes, thank you. Okay. Well, thank you, Art. And, you know, that's probably the, the, the right process to have. So, thank you for reminding me of that. Is there anybody out there that wants to take this on? I don't know, you know, anybody want to... Carole? I don't know if you're interested or Lewanda... Harold... It's, you know, it's not a very rewarding job, at least until this point. I know that Art and others have kind of smacked our heads against the wall, you know, no fault, you know, my opinion, no fault of Art's, you know. But we need to try and see if we can make this, make this happen in a different, in a different way. And it sounds like the agency's...

Kinney: I volun--

Hauth: Yeah, go ahead.

Kinney: Randy?

Hauth: Yes.

Kinney: This is Carole.

Hauth: Okay.

Kinney: I volunteered at the last meeting and said I would help. So yeah, I still do.

Hauth: Okay, well, do you want to, do you want, do you want to lead it or do you want, you know, Lewanda? I don't know if you want to lead it and Carole can help or... You know...

Kinney: I don't really want to be the chairperson, no.

Hauth: Okay. Okay. Okay.

Stevenson, Art: Hey, Randy?

Hauth: Yes.

Stevenson, Art: It might be helpful. Am I, am I off mute?

Hauth: Yes.

Miranda: Yes.

Stevenson, Art: Okay. It might be helpful if we design some protocol for this particular meeting. In other words, you know, what should occur as far as the committee goes in vending facility development, so that all sides know their responsibilities and what they're going to do or try to do and accomplish, because I think that would be helpful. And so perhaps reaching out to some other states and find out their protocol for a vending facility development committee might be helpful. But I think because there has been so much controversy that there should definitely be some structure in writing, so that all sides know what's expected of them and that we get the active participation. You know, and that's what that, this committee's supposed to do anyway. So, that would be my suggestion.

Hauth: Sure. Okay. Well, thank you, Art. That makes sense. Eric, I mean, we need to, you know, we need to get somebody heading this committee [inaudible] we're supposed to do that in a meeting. So, I'd like to, if anybody available to head that up and I mean, you know, I'll be there to help and so will Art and anybody else, but I do think that getting a committee chair set so we can start developing who they want on the committee and also building that protocol that Art talked about. I think if we can do that today, at least get the committee chair set, that'd be great. But while you guys are contemplating that, Eric, can you, can you throw your 2 cents in there on what the agency, what you think the, the committee, the development committee and the agency, how that can be a more fruitful relationship? So, we're not just, you know, arguing about, you know, what the agency wants or what the committee wants and actually get some great opportunities developed and get some blind people opportunities to, you know, make some decent money. And so...

Morris: Yeah, Randy. I mean, I, I totally agree with Art. I think the, the easiest way for something like this to fail is not to go into it with good, good, you know, what do you call it? Guard rails around, not, you know, just basically these are the, this is what we're going to focus on these items specifically. And just for, as you guys are looking for somebody to chair the committee, my thought is, well, when you don't show up to a meeting, you can get volunteered for a lot of things. And obviously that, you know, a lot of people couldn't make a short, short meeting notice like this. So, I, I don't think there's any reason that the elected committee has to make a decision about who's going to chair it today. You know, obviously there's another, you know, half the, half the program isn't here today is, for VFMs. So, but I think, you know, this committee, I think also will play a big role in, in the unassigned vending piece of it as we talk about the best way to assign vending sites as they come available. That's one of the big things that I'd sure like to check off my list as an accomplishment. So along with whatever, it would be interesting to hear what other states are doing from, specifically from this type of a committee.

Hauth: Well, maybe we'll, maybe, you know, hearing, hearing that from Art and from you, maybe, and not having anybody, you know, other than like Carole saying, you know, I'll be involved, but maybe we send out, you know, a request: somebody that wants to chair that committee and we can go from there. I just thought being at June, and we're trying to get these, you know, out to bid and August, and there's some other pressing issues. I just thought maybe time was, you know, of the essence and we needed to start doing that. But you know, we can send a, we can send a note out and get that, you know, see if anybody out there is interested, so...

Jackson: I would chair it, Randy, but I've never done a vending route. I don't feel comfortable.

Hauth: Sure. No, I got you. I, I mean, I, I agree. I appreciate that. It may be good for you to help on it, you know, so. You know, if that's something you'd like to do.

Jackson: I would help on it. Please email me, Lewanda, anybody. Yeah.

Hauth: Yep, that'd be great. Yep, that'd be great. Okay. so is there anything else on the agenda?

Miranda: NFBEI subscription renewal?

Hauth: Okay. Okay. So, Eric, I mean, you know, I know we want to make a motion to support NFBEI. I know at the end of the day it comes down to the agency either accepting the motion or not. We don't want to be, you know, doing it just to do it. So, I mean, what are, what's the agency's position? Is it something that you guys can support or will support?

Morris: Well, Randy, I, I, I think, I don't know if you were copied on this email. I just got the email from Terry last week. 'Cause you know, with, with COVID and everything, I hadn't quite, to be perfectly blunt, I hadn't even thought about it since we got into the pandemic. You know, I, I think the thing we need to look at is do we have the money to spend on it? I think that's always been a concern. And I know, you know, we're not back to normal. It feels like we're getting back to normal as a, as a state and as a nation. I'm hoping that the program, you know, funds and stuff like that will come back. I, I think it's a good program. As you talked about, Terry and Nicky do a lot of good work for, for the Randolph Sheppard Program across the United States. But I, I need to take a look at the budget and see if it's something we can fit in. If, if the elected committee is supporting it, then I think that that carries a lot of weight in my mind. 'Cause I, I looked at it and I thought, jeez, Terry, you know, it's just feeling like we're almost got our head above water, but... Yeah.

Hauth: Sure. Well, let's, let's go ahead and take a motion. Somebody wants to make a motion to, you know, support NFBEI subscription. I'll, I'll entertain that motion. Well, I'll go ahead and make a...

Miranda: [inaudible]

Hauth: Go ahead, go ahead, Lewanda. No, go ahead, Lewanda.

Miranda: Okay, I'd like to make a motion to subscribe to the NFBEI.

Hauth: Okay, do I have a second on that?

Jaynes: I second.

Hauth: Okay, a second's been made. Any discussion? Okay, we'll go ahead and take the yea or nay vote. Art Stevenson? I think you're on mute. Lewanda Miranda?

Miranda: Yea.

Hauth: Okay. Art, Art Stevenson?

Stevenson, A.: Uhhh.

Hauth: Okay, Steve Jacks--. I can come back to you, if you want.

Stevenson, A.: Am I off of mute?   
  
Hauth: You, Art, you're off mute now.

Stevenson, A.: Uhhh. I do not wish to cast a vote on this...

Hauth: Okay, okay. No, that's okay. Steve Jackson?

Jackson: I vote yes.

Hauth: Lin Jaynes?

Jaynes: Yea.

Hauth: And I'll vote yes, so... Did I leave any board member out? I'll vote, I'll vote yes, as well, so the motion passes with one abstention or one no vote. Okay. Anything else on the agenda? And I think I heard somebody try to call my name. I don't know if anybody wants to say anything else.

Morris: Randy. I had, I had one quick...

Hauth: Okay.

Morris: I had one, Randy, I had one quick announcement before we go.

Hauth: Sure.

Morris: I just want to let everybody know, you know, Kat Peace left at the end of April, and we did a, you know, a recruitment. I, all of a sudden, I can't think of my words. Went through a big extensive recruitment to find a replacement for Kat and, which is hard to do because Kat did a great job. And ultimately, we selected Ryan McBee. He's a current, I think, many of you know him, current employee at the Commission and he'll be transitioning over in the next couple weeks as we try to, you know, have him support his old job and getting into the new role. So, you'll be hearing from Ryan more and more frequently for Business Enterprise stuff.

Hauth: Yeah. I think most of us know Ryan, I think Ryan's a good guy. So yeah, that, that's, that's good to know. So hopefully he'll do as good a job as Mark did, and as Kat did, and... You know. So, okay. Well, is there anything else anybody before we go on? And Lewanda, if you don't mind in the, in the near future, or, you know, tonight or tomorrow, if you wouldn't mind sending out, you know, if you're not interested in chairing that committee, if you wouldn't mind sending out something to everybody that, letting them know we're looking for, you know, somebody to chair that committee. So...

Miranda: Okay. I, you know, I will chair it if, if nobody else is interested, I think it would be good for other people to get involved some more. So.

Hauth: Yeah, well, I'll tell you what, I'll, I'll take, I'll take you up on that. And you know, again, we'll all, we'll all help, and Carole committed to helping. I think that Shawn, I don't know if that was Shawn or not, but yeah. So maybe let people know that you're going to chair that committee and you're, you know, considering people to participate. So. [inaudible] Yeah. Thank you. Thanks, Lewanda. Anybody else on that? Okay. Anything else before we adjourn? All right. You guys, well, take care.

Morris: Have a good night.

**Motions Passed**

1. **“…that that we recommend to the complainants, that they accept and sign off on this agreement with the Commission for the Blind concerning the complaint.”**

Proposed: Art Stevenson. Seconded: Randy Hauth. Passed with one nay vote.

1. **“…to adopt the RSA definition of active participation.**

Proposed: Lewanda Miranda. Seconded: Steve Jackson. Passed.

**3. “…to subscribe to the NFBEI.”**

Proposed: Lewanda Miranda. Seconded: Lin Jaynes. Passed with one abstention.