

NEVADA COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS MEETING MINUTES

02/21/2024

2:00 PM

- I. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum:** Ivan Delgado, Chair
- **Harold Petrofsky, Southern Representative – Present**
 - **Joe Urbanek, Vice Chair – Present**
 - **Nels Brown, Northern Representative – Present**
 - **Ivan Delgado, newly selected Chair – Present**
 - **Bernetta Schlechter, Secretary - Present**
- II. Verification of Posting:** Kaye-Lani Tiafau, AA II
- **Kaye-Lani Tiafau confirmed the agenda was posted physically and electronically, following the open meeting law.**
- III. First Public Comment Session** Ivan Delgado, Chair
- **No public comment.**
- IV. For Possible Action - Vote to Accept the Agenda** Ivan Delgado, Chair
- **Joe Urbanek asked for a motion to accept the agenda as written.**
 - **Bernetta Schlechter seconded the motion.**
- V. Welcome and Introduction of Guests:** Ivan Delgado, Chair
- **Introductions started in the south:**
 - **Shehan Peries – BEO II for the South**
 - **Bernetta Schlecter – BEN Site 9**
 - **Jason Bustillo – BEN 59**
 - **Sweet Daughtery – BEN 23**
 - **Mikie Yamada – BEN 20**
 - **Dion Williams – BEN 37**
 - **Joe Urbanek – BEN 13**
 - **Lyncia Urbanek**
 - **Jason Birmingham – BEO I South**
 - **Ryan Barnard – BEO I South**
 - **Kaye-Lani Tiafau – AAll South**
 - **Regina Mitchell – BEN Trainee**
 - **Donna Bates – BEN Trainee**

- **Kendra Daughtery**
- **Larrey Coffey – Orientation and Mobility Instructor II South**
- **Chris Mazza – BEN Chief**
- **Harold Petrofsky – BEN 15**
- **Todd Weiss – Deputy Attorney General for BEN**

- **People on the zoom call and in the North:**
 - **Nels Brown – BEN 8 North**
 - **Janette Parish – AAIV**
 - **Richard Eberly – BEO II North**
 - **Eugenio Chavez – BEN 16, BEN 45**
 - **Richard Taylor – BEN 14**

VI. For Possible Action –

Ivan Delgado, Chair

- **Ivan Delgado asked for action to accept the meeting minutes for the Nevada Committee of Blind Vendors from October 19, 2023.**
- **Harold Petrofsky states he'll make the motion to approve the minutes**
- **Nels Brown in the North seconded the motion.**
- **Ivan Delgado asked if anyone else favored the motion to state "Aye".**
- **Bernetta Schlecter and Joe Urbanek stated aye.**

VII. Old Business

Chris Mazza, BEN Chief

Discussion – BEN project and status update:

- **Chris Mazza introduced himself and stated he will briefly speak about training but will have Shehan continue in the next section.**
 - **In the North, Eugenio opened Reno City Hall, which is a new site for him.**
 - **A lot of media coverage for the opening and for the program.**
 - **All the local TV channels were present as-well-as all DETR leadership were present to show their support.**
 - **Last week (02/12-02/16) we gave Jason Bustillo his license, so Jason is now a licensed operator.**
 - **Additionally, we welcomed Regina Mitchell and Donna Bates as trainees.**
 - **We now have 14 licensed operators and 2 trainees.**

- **Program has grown significantly since Covid. So, we're always looking into opening sites as potential businesses for newcomers.**
 - **The new state campus where the state purchased about 13 different buildings by the airport, may present opportunities for the BEN program.**
 - **We will probably see agencies moving into the buildings within the next 3 to 6 months.**
 - **Meeting next week with Gaming Control who will be one of the agencies buying a building there as well as taking a tour of the entire campus.**
 - **They have a breakroom space, 260 people – could be something for BEN to look at as an opportunity.**
 - **We looked at a newly re-purchased building in Reno, who should have about 300 people, by the state.**
 - **We will continue to look, explore, and evaluate any new opportunities coming our way and hopefully be able to get some great sites.**
- **Financially the program is doing well, numbers-wise.**
 - **The Federal fiscal year finished up with about \$10 million dollars, program-wide, in annual sales.**
 - **We were at pre-pandemic levels but now ready to exceed pre-pandemic levels for both sales and provinces, and Set-Asides.**
 - **The Reserve sits at 2.7 million.**
 - **We have 10-figure projects coming up soon.**
 - **New training site, up north, at the new Arrowhead Building which we have purchased furniture for.**
 - **Hoover Dam will need a new 20-ton air handler, and this is significantly expensive.**
 - **Overall, the program is financially strong.**

VIII. New Business

Discussion -

Shehan Peries, BEO II

- **Trainee Update:**
 - **A few updates on trainees, as Chris mentioned, Jason Bustillo was presented with his license last week.**
 - **New trainees:**
 - **Regina Mitchell, BEN Trainee, is currently in the BEN training program.**

- **She will be resuming Chicago Lighthouse Business Enterprise Training Zoom followed by OJT.**
- **We also have Donna Bates with us. Donna is in the process of entering BEN training to get all the BEN requirements in.**
- **Also, we have Yun Ellis, Maria Rodriguez, and Nina Hernandez, who are all working with their counselors and in the process of entering training for BEN.**
- **Updates for the North:**
 - **We have met with a few candidates who have expressed their interest in BEN. These conversations are still ongoing.**

For Possible Action-

IX. Second Public Comment:

Ivan Delgado, Chair

- **Comment – Ivan Delgado thanked everyone for showing up in person and wanted to state for the record he will promise to do everything in his power to make everyone happy and heard. Stated this state and program is a blessing and will help the operators. Thanking everyone for their trust and vowed to be readily available by phone or email.**
- **Sweet Daughtery spoke and congratulated Ivan Delgado for accepting the position of Chair and commended him for accepting it. Also agreed with Ivan regarding the importance of everyone being present in the meeting.**
 - **Sweet wanted to say something off the record. States something has been bothering him and wanted to correct the pronunciation of Shehan’s name. Enunciating the pronunciation as SHAY-HAN, not SHE-han.**
- **Burnetta had a question regarding electronic pay.**
- **Chris stated this part of the agenda should remain as a comment section, not questions and answers.**
- **Bernetta stated she’d like to add to the agenda for the next meeting and follow up about the portal for electronic pay.**
- **Richard Taylor also had a question to add to the comment section and asked a question regarding sites and purchasing.**
- **Chris reminded everyone this is only a comment section so no questions should be asked during this time.**
- **Ivan Delgado stated that if there are any questions to please ask your BEOs; Chris added to please connect with your BEOs and copy Chris Mazza if you’d like an answer to a question outside of the meeting.**

X. Discussion - Date for Next NCBV Meeting: Ivan Delgado, Chair

- **Next meeting will be 3mos from now – May.**
- **Chris stated the only dates available were Wednesday the 22nd or Thursday, the 23rd**
- **Ivan stated Tuesday the 22nd at 2pm**
- **Joe stated the 23rd at 2pm will work best.**
- **Ivan confirmed meeting will be held Thursday, May 23rd at 2pm**

XI. Adjournment: Ivan Delgado, Chair

- **Ivan motioned to adjourn at 2:25 pm**
- **Harold seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Committee Members

- 1. Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair**
- 2. Joe Urbanek, NCBV Vice Chair**
- 3. Harold Petrofsky, NCBV South Representative**
- 4. Nels Brown, NCBV North Representative**
- 5. Bernetta Schlecter, NCBV Secretary**