

NEVADA COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS MEETING MINUTES

10/19/2023

1:00 PM

I. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum:

Joe Urbanek

- Nels Brown, Northern Representative - Present
- Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair - Present
- Harold Petrofsky, Secretary - Present
- Dick Saperstein, NCBV Chair – Not Present
- Joe Urbanek, Southern Representative - 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

Joe Urbanek

- No public comment

IV. For Possible Action - Vote to Accept the Agenda

Joe Urbanek

- Joe Urbanek asked for a motion to accept the agenda.
- Harold Petrofsky accepted the agenda.
- Ivan Delgado Villa seconded the motion.

V. Welcome and Introduction of Guests:

Joe Urbanek

- Started in the Northern Region: Non-Vendors
 - Ken Pierson, Service Manager for VocRehab
 - Janette Parish, Admin Assistant IV
 - Richard Eberly, BEO II
 - Richard Taylor, BEN site 14
- Southern Region:

- Chris Mazza, Chief Enterprise Officer
- Shehan Peries, BEO II
- Ryan Barnard, BEO I
- Jason Birmingham, BEO I
- Kaye-Lani Tiafau, AAll
- Micky Yamada, BEN site 20
- Sweet Daughtery, BEN site 23
- Jason Bustillo, BEN site 59
- Marcos Hurtado Vilar, BEN Site 06
- Dion Williams, BEN site 37
- Leslie Bustillo
- Kendra Daughtery
- Lyncia Urbank

VI. For Possible Action –

Joe Urbanek

**Approval of the minutes for the
Nevada Committee of Blind Vendors meeting,
March 15,2023**

- Joe Urbanek motioned for approval of the minutes.
- Ivan Delgado motioned to approve the minutes.
- Harold Petrofsky asked if the acting chair could make the motion, Janette Parish stated no he cannot; in which Joe Urbanek agreed.
- Nels Brown motioned to accept the agenda.
- Harold Petrofsky seconded the motion.

VII. Old Business

Discussion - BEN project and status update:

Chris Mazza, BEN Chief

- BEN site updates / Financial Update
 - Site Updates
 1. Red Rock Canyon – met with Red Rock last week (10/09-10/13).
Attorneys for Red Rock Canyon and BEN are involved in trying to come up with an agreement with the first draft of the permit, to allow us access to their facility.

- Red Rock's goal right now is to take the first draft of the permit, review it, ask questions about what they don't have answers to, then return it to us for us to review.
 - The meeting about this was last Tuesday (10/17/2023).
2. Clark County's Parks and Recreation Dept.
- The softball league at Sunset Park is picking up, specifically for the Spring.
 - Scheduled meeting in December 2023 with Clark County Parks and Rec. to discuss the Softball schedule.
 - Looking like there'll be a four-month period when they will be playing softball three nights a week (Mon, Wed., Fri.) and would like to talk about our concession stands at Sunset Park.
3. Post Office
- Recently looking into contact for the Post Office.
 - They would like to transition from vending machines to markets. Stated there are 15 post offices in town that we're currently not in. Each has over 100 employees.
 - Chris Mazza visited 5 locations on Monday (10/16/2023), will be visiting another 5 this coming Monday (10/23/2023), and then the last 5 the following Monday (10/30/2023).
 - Will be in contact with the representative to transition the vending machines into Markets.
 - This will be a unique and interesting opportunity because 100 people are right on the cusp of what makes a market successful. The public will not be able to walk inside these locations to purchase anything. The markets will be for employees only.
 - Some P. O.'s are 24hrs/day, some aren't. Depending on how many people will be in the location.
4. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD)
- Looking into expanding from vending into markets as well.
 - The next step for them is the location off MLK Blvd at the police headquarters. There are three buildings located here, however most of the employees are out in the community.
 - There's a market at the 24-hour communications center. The employees are in the building verses out in the public most of their shift and are doing quite well.
 - Markets for police headquarters also have the potential to do well.
5. In the Northern Region:

- BEN sites are available in Carson City and Reno, NV for anyone willing to move.
 - Arrowhead building will possibly have about 500 people working within this building by end of 2023/early next year.
 - This was formally owned by Harley Davidson so smaller cafes were in the building previously.
 - While the building needs equipment, it still has the plumbing and infrastructure ready to go to make a café.
 - Additionally, the Brian Building has a building ready to go for any available vendor willing to move to Carson City, NV.
 - Located near the DMV
 - Carson City DMV site is ready to go as well.
6. Sagebrush is coming up in February, the week of Valentine's Day
- Located in Las Vegas at the Golden Nugget
 - Annual Training will be coordinated within the same week as Sagebrush at Westbay and on Zoom.
 - Two Year election for NCBV will be held in February as well.
7. Reserve:
- The reserve sits at 2.6/2.7 million right now and is steady but has come up about \$7-800,000.00 since COVID.

****Dick Saperstein, NCBV Chair entered the zoom meeting and apologized for being late. Ivan Delgado stated Joe Urbanek has been leading the meeting today in his absence. Dick Saperstein stated he'll allow Joe Urbanek to continue and will add in when necessary. ****

VIII. New Business

Joe Urbanek

- Dick has a request measure regarding work that the BEOs and BEN Chief does.
 - Dick asked Chris Mazza if he presented the work performance standards for the BEOs.
 - Chris Mazza stated he wasn't aware he was presenting.
 - Chris Mazza read a brief description of essential functions that encompass the positions and asked if it was acceptable to read.
 - Read – The essential functions of BEO I and BEO II positions will be the eligibility determination of BEN trainees, recommend licensing and operating new BEN operators, coordinate training of new BEN operators, site liability, formation of resources, reconciliation of site closures and transfers, negotiate new site agreements, will receive BEN site performance in Northern and Southern

Nevada, liaison with state and local entities, cooperativeness, customer service, dependability, team work and judgement.

- Dick asked for any concerns or questions regarding what Chris presented.
 - No questions or concerns, Dick stated it was sufficient.

Discussion -

Trainee update

Shehan Peries, BEO II

- Shehan stated we had a few developments as far as trainees:
 - Dion Williams transitioned from interim operator status to a licensed operator, in September. Currently operating the Flamingo DMV
 - Jason Bustillo is about 9mos into his interim operatorship at the Las Vegas library and hoping to license him in the next 3-6mos.
 - Eugenio Chavez completed his BEN training in September and will be operating the Mills Lane Justice Center in Reno and Reno City Hall, as an interim operator.
 - In terms of New Trainees:
 - We've had a lot of interest in the BEN program. Met with 5 candidates so far, 4 of them are working with counselors to submit needed documentation to enter BEN training.
 - 5th operator is a BEP operator in Alabama and is looking to move to Nevada, at the end of the year.
- Joe Urbank had a question for Chris Mazza, if the post offices will permit us to have cameras with their micro-markets.
 - Chris replied yes.

For Possible Action -

Dick Saperstein

- Retirement Income NAC 426.383
- Health Care Reimbursement NAC 426.387
- Set-Aside Schedule NAC 426.230
 - Dick states in '96, he redid the Set-Aside schedule for the first time since the program had been active since 1965.
 - Dick states seeing the fiscal stability of the program and the type of inflation over the years, it's time to redo the set-aside schedule yet again. States the vendors should be able to keep more of their money.
 - Dick stated under the retirement, \$9,000.00 was added at least 10-12, 15 years ago.
 - Chris stated it was 7 years.
 - Dick proposed we raise the retirement from \$9,000.00 to \$12,000.00 for every licensed blind vendor in the program. Effective this fiscal year.

- Dick asked if there were any comments/conversations anyone had to add.
- Chris Mazza stated according to his own policy, he couldn't do the proposal.
 - Dick asked what can we do?
 - Chris stated he could propose an amount by April of 2024 to go into effect at the next biennium which starts July 2025. So, if he wanted to raise it from \$9000 to \$12000, the NCBV finance committee would then work on determining that amount and present it by April of 2024.
 - Dick stated he could not recall the retirement or the health care reimbursement having to go through the legislature. Dick said he recalls it going through the IFC as they approved it. Stated however when it comes to the set-aside, that may be different.
 - Dick asked Nels if he remembers it going through the legislature.
 - Nels stated it did prior to the \$9000, we had to go through the legislature.
 - Chris stated he had the policy in front of him and said the annual amount for healthcare and retirement. Chris read, *cost reimbursement will be determined by April, the preceding year of the start of the biennium, and will remain in effect through the biennium. For example, the amount is to be determined by April of 2016 for the state fiscal years 18 and 19 by end-budget request. This allows for the amount to be included for the biennium budget request and through the legislative process to be approved by the legislature. The NCBV finance sub-committee will work with the bureau in determining the amount available for health care reimbursement again before retirement. The NCBV will discuss, vote, and call for a vote, if most licensed operators adopt the amount distribution in the coming biennium.*
 - Dick asked if it would be 2 years down the road, before we can make it effective.
 - Chris stated it would be a little less than two years.
 - Dick stated he'll go back and restructure for two years down the road to make it appropriate along with the help of the forum members of the committee. States he believes we suffered a lot of inflation since these things were put into effect. States, it's only fair for the employees of the NCBV program, should have adjustments to their incomes. States he will make it happen in the next two years.

- Dick stated he was going to propose \$12,000.00 for the retirement for next year and given the fact there's 11 licensed vendors—says assuming there was 16, that would've been \$48,000/year additional expense for the vendors.
 - Dick asked as far as the health reimbursement goes, he assumes this also must go through the legislature.
 - Chris replied, both the retirement and health care reimbursement are the same.
 - Dick said he was going to propose that as of the next fiscal year, the health care reimbursement goes from \$14,500 to \$18,000, an increase of \$3500 which is around \$51,000.00. That would mean a net increase to set aside or to some type of reserve of the amount of \$90,000. He thinks the program can absorb that on an annual basis given what the numbers are now.
 - Joe Urbanek motioned to table this until the election is held next year.
 - Dick agreed to table the topic until the election in 2024 and resume the discussion at that time.
 - Nels seconded the motion.
- Richard Taylor asked if there's an easier and quicker way to receive the set aside checks. (electronically)
 - Chris said he will investigate any electronic options and agreed with Richard Taylor that sending in checks is a silly and antiquated way to do things.
 - Dick said he knows it says in the program rules that the check must be drawn on the business account, but not sure if there's an electronic method available.
 - Chris stated it would still be drawn out of the same account, just accepted electronically.
 - Marcos Hurtado stated he agreed with Dick with the inflation and thinks it's fair to raise the retirement. He suggested revising the policy about licensing regarding a new vendor to wait 5 years to get their full amount for retirement.
 - Dick stated that is correct and fair considering people have been there for so many years and should be able to collect the full amount. Stated there should be a period that new vendors prove themselves, and the committee voted years ago to institute this percentage-based program, for new vendors. Dick also stated, at that time there was complete agreement for all the vendors, this was a fair thing to do.
 - Marcos stated he disagreed with the policy, that a new licensed vendor had to wait 5 yrs. Asked why and said for example, if you worked for 8 yrs and go

to a food position, no other state says you must wait 5yrs to get your 100% salary.

- Dick asked Marcos to slow down to get his message across because he couldn't understand him.
- Marcos said he was trying to say, when you revise the BEN program, please see the whole picture. He sees we must be firm with a new licensing vendor but try to implement everything; have patience, because everybody knows even before reaching the 5yrs, some vendors don't have a good location. So why not give the full amount for the first year? Stated he agreed we must do something about it.
- Dick said this wasn't the time or place for Marcos to discuss his personal feelings regarding this. Will be glad to take this up with him privately about it. But the program was set with rules for a reason, he stated. Also said if he didn't like it he could ask him to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting that addresses his concerns but right now isn't the time to get angry about something we have no control over at this point. Dick said if he didn't like how, he can ask for it to be changed. He can't promise it will be changed but can take it to his fellow committee members to vote on. Dick said if it was an issue, please get in touch with him via phone or email and if you'd like it on the next agenda, he will put it on the agenda.
- Harold Petrofsky stated he remembered when they had this discussion the first time the policy came to the committee. He remembers he voted that everybody should get the same amount at one time and was the only one who voted for that. Harold stated he agreed with Marcos and voted that way because of what Marcos pointed out; all the new vendors don't get good locations.
- Dick stated he stands corrected; he thought it was unanimous.
- Harold stated he was the only one who voted this way.
- Ivan Delgado stated he remembers when this was brought up and loved the idea. Says he loved the idea of how it's been, and to take the example of Marcos when someone gets an engineering job. You're not going to get the engineering job and be placed at the chair. Stated you're not going to be a President, a CEO, you won't be placed at the top. You must work your way up. The same goes for this program. States he started at the courthouse and hardly made money. He learned not to bite the hand that fed him and sticks to it. He believes he's a true testament to this program of hard work and dedication and completely agrees with this program and how it's been. He believes in this program and likes people working towards something. Ivan also said if we continue to give, people will drop out. He says he's all for keeping everything the way it is because it's fair.

- Sweet Daughtery asked if there's a way to shorten the timeframe to receive 100% salary in 3 years and not 5. States if we have the means to do and save what we have, what's the use of it sitting on the shelf.
 - Sweet states if it's on the table for them to get anything they're able to get, he agrees with Marcos.
- Dick advises to discuss it at another time. States will look at the policy again.
- Joe Urbank supports the method of the current policy. States just like any other company you work for, you become vested after some time.
 - Joe motioned for set-aside to be tabled until the next meeting.
 - Nels seconded the motion.

IX. Second Public Comment:

Joe Urbank

- Harold Petrofsky made a statement suggesting discussing medical reimbursement for those who have service animals, on the next agenda.
- Marcos Hurtado states he's never able to reach Dick or leave a voicemail because it's too full. Also states he's unable to reach him via email and suggested to investigate it.
 - Marcos advised to check out his voicemail and inbox and become available since he's a public figure and the leader of the NCBV.
 - Dick stated he hasn't received any email from Marcos and this discussion isn't for a public forum.

X. Discussion - Date for Next NCBV Meeting:

Joe Urbank

- Next meeting date: 02/15/2024 at 1:00pm

XI. Adjournment:

Joe Urbank

Committee Members:

Dick Saperstein, Harold Petrofsky, Joe Urbank, Ivan Delgado, Nels Brown

Notice: Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or assistance at the meeting and persons requesting supporting material as provided in NRS 241.020, Section 5 should contact Chris Mazza, Chief Enterprise Officer, Business Enterprises of Nevada by written request at the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually impaired. 3016 West Charleston Blvd. Suite #215, Las Vegas, NV 89102; or call (702) 486-8800. If in Clark County call (702) 486-7921 or the Las Vegas toll free number (800) 781-8387 and for hearing impaired, dial TTY 800 326-6868 or 711 for Relay Nevada. Or send a fax to (775) 684-4186 before the close of business on Monday, October 16, 2023.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations on or before 9a.m. on the third working day prior to the meeting: Bureau of Services to the Bline and Visually Impaired, 751 Basque Way, Carson City, Nevada; Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, 3016 W. Charleston Blvd. #215, Las Vegas, NV.

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet on the following sites: DETR'S Public Meetings website at https://detr.nv.gov/page/public_meetings, and per NRS 232.2175 on the State of Nevada's Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov> . In addition, this agenda was mailed and/or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.