

Nevada Committee of Blind Vendors (NCBV)

Meeting Minutes

3016 West Charleson Blvd. Suite 215

Wednesday November 25th, 2025

I. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum: Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair

Ivan Delgado, Committee Chair initiated the meeting and called roll for the other members. It was as follows:

Joe Urbanek, Vice Chair (Present)

Burnetta Schlechter, Secretary (Present)

Harold Petrofsky, Southern Representative (Absent)

Nels Brown, Northern Representative (Present)

A quorum was initially not present. After a brief waiting period, Vice Chair Urbanek joined, establishing quorum with three members present. Burnetta Schlechter joined near the end of the meeting.

II. Verification of Posting: Kaye-Lani Tiafau, AA IV

Administrative Assistant Kaye-Lani Tiafau was absent. Mr. Shehan Peries, Chief Enterprise Officer confirmed that the meeting notice was posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

III. First Public Comment Section: Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair

Chair Delgado opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were provided. Meeting advanced to the next item.

IV. Vote to Accept Agenda: Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair

Chair Delgado asked for a motion to approve agenda.

Northern Representative Nels Brown made the motion to accept the agenda.

Vice Chair Joe Urbanek seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

V. Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair

Chair Delgado opened the floor for the introduction of guests.

Southern Participants:

- Shehan Peries, BEN Chief
- Sweet Daughtery Operator (BEN Site 23)
- Drazen Elez, Administrator, Rehabilitation Division

Northern Participants:

- Mechelle Merrill, Deputy Administrator of Rehabilitation
- Richard Eberly, Business Enterprise Officer II
- Eugenio Chavez, Operator (BEN Site 45)

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- Mary Olson, Deputy Attorney General

Later in the meeting, the following attendees joined:

- Burnetta Schlechter, NCBV Secretary
- Regina Mitchell, Operator (BEN Site 3)

VI. New Business

Discussion and Motion: AAFES Arbitration – Joe Urbanek, NCBV Vice Chair

Vice Chair Urbanek reported that Illinois officially joined the multi-state arbitration effort against the Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) and that over 10 states were expected to participate. He emphasized the potential benefits to Nevada operators, particularly regarding opportunities at Nellis Air Force Base and other military installations.

He stated that contributing financially to this arbitration could produce substantial long-term advantages for Nevada's blind vendors and noted that the program reserve balance exceeds \$4.3 million.

Vice Chair Urbanek stated that the Nevada program could contribute 20,000 dollars toward the AAFES arbitration effort. Given the reserve balance, he contended that such an amount, which is double the 10,000-dollar requirement, would not be an issue.

Vice Chair Urbanek made a motion to approve.

Nels Brown, Northern Representative, seconded the motion.

All members present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.

Following the vote, Mr. Peries clarified that the typical contribution requested from each state was 10,000 dollars and asked whether the committee was formally recommending a contribution of 20,000 dollars. Chair Delgado and Vice Chair Urbanek both confirmed that the motion and vote were specifically for the 20,000-dollar amount.

VII. Second Public Comment: Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair

Chair Delgado opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Elez provided a detailed information regarding the approval process:

- The committee's vote serves as a program recommendation, not a final decision.
- Any financial commitment of this nature must be reviewed by DETR leadership and elevated to state executive leadership, including the Director and ultimately the Governor's Office.
- The Bureau will forward the committee's recommendation, including justification for participation and the full 20,000-dollar proposed amount, and will advocate on behalf of the program.

Vice Chair Urbanek asked several follow-up questions regarding:

1. The specific recommendation being forwarded.
2. Whether the 20,000-dollar amount would be included.
3. The expected timeline for a final decision given the December deadline.

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Mr. Elez reiterated that the full recommendation, including the voted-upon dollar amount, would be transmitted and advocated for. He commented that, the Bureau cannot predict the exact timeline for state approval. He hopes for a response by December 1st but cannot guarantee it. A final decision could come as early as December, but January 1st is a more realistic expectation.

Mr. Peries advised that he may be able to reach out to the National Association of Blind Merchants (NABM) to inform them that Nevada may require additional time to get the proposal approved.

Vice Chair Urbanek continued asking whether a decision could reasonably be presumed by January, February, or March.

Mr. Elez noted that we could not make any assumptions, as the decision lies outside the Bureau's direct authority.

No additional public comments were offered. Meeting advanced to the next item.

VIII. Adjournment: Ivan Delgado, NCBV Chair

Chair Delgado asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Northern Representative Nels Brown made the motion.

Vice Chair Joe Urbanek seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained, motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned.