

NEBRASKA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
PUBLIC MEETING, January 29, 2002, 5:00 P.M.
LINCOLN, OMAHA, NORFOLK, KEARNEY, NORTH PLATTE AND
SCOTTSDLUFF
Videoconference sites across NEBRASKA

Approved

Call to Order and Introductions:

Chairman, Barbara Walker, called the meeting to order and requested each individual at each site to introduce themselves beginning at the Lincoln site: Board of Commissioners Barbara Walker and William Orester; Pearl Van Zandt, Executive Director; Connie Daly, Lincoln District Supervisor; Jan Ludwig, Assistant to the Director; Roy Hobley, President of Senior Division of National Federation of the Blind Nebraska; Carlos Servan, Deputy Director for Vocational Rehabilitation; Bob Deaton, Assistant Director for Independent Living Services; Michael Floyd, First Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska; Nancy Coffman, Program Specialist of Technology; Brad Loos, private citizen; and Bill Brown*, Business Manager;

Omaha: Bob Burns, Commissioner; Dorothy Westin-Yockey, Commissioner; Fritz Yockey, Nancy Flearl, Omaha District Supervisor; Jim Jirak, President of American Council of the Blind of Nebraska; Leonard Jefferson, Josephine Genit, Millard Hudson, Georgia Venerable, and Napoleon McCallister*.
Norfolk: Connie Carlow, Staff Assistant and John Schmitt*, Rehabilitation Counselor.

Kearney: Jan Brandt, Program Specialist of Technology; Deanna Jesse, Orientation Counselor; Walter Johnson, Linda Edwards, Jean Wurtz, Orientation Counselor; Marrietta Sim, Peer Consultant; Sheila Gawrych, Staff Assistant; and Dennis* and Patti* Wright.

North Platte: Denise Johnston Rauterkus, Transition Counselor; Candace Laursen, North Platte District Supervisor; Susan Roe, Orientation Counselor; Gerry Spangler, client: Cherylann Spangler, Sherrie Bruegman, Staff Assistant; Della Johnston, Vice President of Buffalo Bill Chapter of NFB; Colleen Chandler, Peer Consultant.

Scottsbluff: Josie Rodriguez, Staff Assistant; Nichelle Ferreyra; Commissioner; Dan Hill, Rehabilitation Counselor and Howard Backous,

Request was made to please inform the group when a new attendee arrives. NOTE: Latecomers are indicated with an asterisk (*) following the name.

Chairman Walker asked individuals to speak clearly, to stay on task and not be repetitive as we need to conclude the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Minutes: Chairman Walker requested approval of the draft minutes of the November 17, 2002 minutes. There were no additions or corrections to the draft minutes. Orestor moved their approval and Dorothy-Yockey seconded the motion. Walker called for the question and a roll call vote was taken: Orestor - yes; Burns - yes; Yockey-Westin - yes; and Ferreyra - yes; resulting in unanimous approval of the minutes.

The goal for this meeting is to approve a Hearing Draft of Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of Rule for the Commission. Walker requested discussion and/or revisions from the Commission Board members and the public was given time to make comments as well.

Chapter 1: Van Zandt recommended some addition and changes to Chapter 1. There was discussion that included comments from the public at the different sites. Walker asked for any objection to the addition and/or changes to Chapter 1. The role call vote is as follows: Orester - no; Burns - no; Westin-Yockey - no; and Ferreyra - no. The vote is unanimous.

Chapter 2: Walker asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board members on Chapter 2 and there was none. Van Zandt did have changes to be made and after much discussion, Orester moved to include the Mediation Portion of the Rule and filing to be accomplished in writing. Burns seconded the motion. A role call vote was Orester - yes, Burns-yes, Westin-Yockey - yes, and Ferreyra - yes.

Van Zandt recommended deletion of State Rehabilitation Council in Section 005.05, as there is a bill before the legislature to repeal that Section of the Law. The Board agreed and the vote was unanimous; Burns -yes, Westin-Yockey - yes, Orester - yes, and Ferreyra - yes.

Chapter 3: - Vending Program. Board members did not have any comments on Chapter 3. Van Zandt brought some changes that were discussed by the Board in great detail. After discussion it was moved by Westin Yockey to accept the changes brought forth by Van Zandt and the need to comply with the Randolph Shepherd Federal Law. The role call vote was Burns - aye, Westin-Yockey - aye, Orester - aye, and Ferreyra - aye. Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Burns moved that all three chapters be moved to a status of Hearing Draft and to proceed with setting a hearing date, giving at least 30 days notice. Westin Yockey seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Van Zandt did inform the Board there needs to be a hearing officer appointment and she recommended Barbara Walker. Burns moved for Walker to be the hearing officer. Westin Yockey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Location, Date and Time of Next Meeting-Orester moved for the next Board of Commissioner meeting be held in Lincoln, March 23, 2002, beginning at 1:00 P.M. Burns seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Ludwig