STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

BIMONTHLY MEETING

2200 University Avenue
APPEARANCES IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM:

REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND
SSB STAFF

Corbb O'Connor, Chairperson       Dave Andrews
Deborah Leuchovius, Vice Chair    Jennifer Beilke
Daniel Ashman                     Jon Benson
Frank Eller                       Brianna Holeman
Tom Heinl

Gloria Lafriniere
Catalina Martinez
Mohamed Mohamed
Michael O'Day
Judy Sanders
Ryan Strunk
ALSO PRESENT:

Natasha Jerde, Director of SSB

Susan Kusz, State Program Administrator

Whereupon, the following proceedings were duly had and entered of record, to-wit:
MR. O’CONNOR: Because I’ve now been handed something, we are going to say the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind of Minnesota is coming to order for the first time, I think, in two years.

Before we get started let’s do a quick roll call and I will repeat those in the room, but if you are in the room if you could get close to a microphone, maybe that will be better.

So start with Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, here.

MR. O’CONNOR: Daniel is here.

Frank Eller.
MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank is here.

Jessica Fordyce.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Don't hear Jessica yet.

Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Glad you are here, Tom.

Gloria LaFraniere.

MS. LAFRANIERE: Gloria, here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria is here.

Deborah Leuchovius.
MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah is here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Hello, Deb.

Catalina Martinez.

MS. MARTINEZ: I'm here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina is here.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah is here too.

MR. O'CONNOR: Hello, Deborah.

Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed is here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed is here.

I, Corbb O'Connor, am here.

Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Here.
MR. O'CONNOR: Michael is here.

Kristina Petronko.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Told us that she would not be able to make it.

Judy Sanders.

MS. SANDERS: Here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy Sanders is here.

And Ryan Strunk.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk is here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan is here.

Jeff Thompson.
(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Don't see Jeff yet.

Trevor Turner.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: I think Trevor mentioned he would not be able to make it.

And then last is Kyle Van Acker.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Don't see Kyle.

All right. Well, then, let us get going. I want to see if hopefully everybody has a copy of the agenda. I think one of the things that I am grateful and excited for is a second
presentation from Natasha this evening, as well as

a report from our task forces, but particularly the

one on our committee structure which is an

important one for how we are going to be working in

the years to come.

So first things first. There was a

copy of the minutes from our last meeting which I

believe was April 7. And I want to see if there is

a motion to accept those minutes.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, so moved.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel moves.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius
seconds.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah seconds. Thank you both.

We will do another roll call and see how fast we can get these done by the end of the night.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel Ashman said yes.

Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: All right.

MS. LAFRANIERE: Gloria LaFraniere was absent.
MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.

Jessica Fordyce is not here, didn't hear her yet.

Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. Gloria was absent.

Deborah.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Yes, Deborah says yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah says yes.

Catalina Martinez.
MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, I abstain, I wasn't there.

MR. O’CONNOR: Mohamed abstains.

Corbb O'Connor, yes.

Michael O'Day.

MR. O’DAY: Yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Michael is yes.

Kristina Petronko.

(No response.)

MR. O’CONNOR: Judy Sanders.

MS. SANDERS: Abstain.
MR. O'CONNOR: Judy abstains.

Ryan Strunk.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: And Jeff Thompson.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: And Kyle Van Acker.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Keep me honest on the absent folks, I did not write them down ahead of time.
Motion passes. Thank very much.

For the Chair report, just a couple of announcements that I want to make sure we get in.

There were some questions on the per diem from our last meeting for those on the Council and while it's very exciting that we adjourned at, I think 6:00 something p.m., that's not two hours, no per diem for that meeting. So ask more questions and we won't have this problem in the future. Then again, if I try and hold the meeting open I might be taken down as chair.

All right. And then the other note on that, Susan asks that anyone who is present in the
room please sign your expense forms with her before leaving tonight. Also give her any transportation receipts before midnight tonight as she is heading on vacation.

Last note from my perspective is I've been excited to be invited to some of the committee meetings that we have been having of late, was excited to meet with the Minority Outreach folks this morning and I would just ask as committees meet if you would kindly shoot me an invite for those meetings, that would be helpful.

All right. Any other comments that we
need to start with this evening?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Hearing none, I would like to move us, then, to Steve Jacobson, the report on the committee structure.

And Steve, can we trouble you to come up here? Sorry, Steve, over here, that way you will be near the computer mike.

MR. HOBSON: This is Rob Hobson, I have a suggestion.

MR. O'CONNOR: Rob has a suggestion, yes, sir.

MR. HOBSON: I could log in on the
Zoom call with my phone and whenever we are talking back over here I wouldn't mind if they wanted to use it.

MS. JERDE: That would be a great idea, Rob.

MR. O'CONNOR: So Rob is going to try creating a second microphone for us and we will have some echoes, but we will hopefully be able to manage that. We beg your patience on Zoom.

Fair point, thanks, Rob.

MR. JACOBSON: Good evening everybody.

Can I be heard?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

MR. JACOBSON: I know you guys can.

You know every year we have a

Committee Structure Task Force where we get

together and try to look at committees. And we

know over the last two or three years, particularly

two years, it's been a little tough for committees

to get into the groove between the pandemic and

late Council appointments and throwing committee

appointments off, but we also know that so much is

unknown as we move back into in-person meetings.

We did make a few suggestions that we

hope the Council will think are good suggestions,
but we aren't going to change committee sizes or anything like that because even though we've had a hard time filling some committees, some of that we think is related to the pandemic.

But here are the areas that we looked at making changes and why we did. We want to formalize the process of making meeting locations and times available; we want to set an expectation that all committees will meet at least four times per year while providing for exceptions; we want to add or modify the statement that committees will provide input to the goals and the priorities.
process where appropriate so that it is a part of all committee charges rather than, you know, the chair having to remind us to do that; and we want to add some modern language to the charge associated with the Minority Outreach report.

The people that served with me on this committee were Corbb O'Connor and Dan Ashman. Here is the specific changes we want to make: This is a long document so I am not going to read the whole document from the beginning to the end, but I'm going to give you a pretty exact summary of what's changes.

In the section on ground rules and
record there's a place that talks about posting on
SSB's website regarding meeting notices and times,
we want to add this to that: In addition meeting
notices shall be communicated by the chair of each
committee to the chairperson of the Council and to
the Council's staff support. This will help make
sure that the notice can get to the right people.
As the chair of one committee I know I haven't
always done that, Dave has sometimes saved me on
that one.
We want to add in the same section
after deliberate considerations we want to add
something that says committees shall meet at least
four times per year, four times per committee term
actually what we said, or the committee chair shall
provide the Council chair a written description of
the circumstances preventing this from occurring.
Sometimes there's legitimate reasons committees
can't meet, so we want to leave that open.
In the Communications Center report
there is a very long sentence about the goals and
committees that -- the goals and priorities process
that we broke up, tried to make it a little bit
better and then we also used it in other
committees. What we say is this committee will
provide input to the Customer Satisfaction and
Goals & Priorities Committee and the full Council
for consideration in the development of annual
goals and priorities in conjunction with SSB.
Progress towards achieving these goals will be
monitored throughout the year.
This is something we've always asked
committees to do, but we are putting it in the
charges. In some cases it was missing in certain
of the charges, in some cases it was there but it
was stated differently. In the DeafBlind
Committee -- oh, we've replaced this sentence in
the DeafBlind Committee the Minority Outreach Committee, the Transition Committee and in the Vendor Outcomes Committee.

We made a little adjustment to this in the Employment Committee because we thought there was some special things that deserved mention. We added modified version of this sentence to the end of their charge which says this committee will provide input to the Customer Satisfaction and Goals & Priorities Committee and the full Council for consideration in the development of annual goals and priorities in conjunction with SSB. And then here is where we changed it, progress toward
achieving these goals will be monitored by tracking case closures, successful and unsuccessful outcomes and other employment-related data throughout the year. There is more of that for the employment process it seemed to us, so we thought that was worth mentioning.

In the Minority Outreach Committee, and this is the last change, we tried to clarify the purpose using some language that a couple of our committee members were aware of. And what we would say is the following --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-oh.
MR. JACOBSON: No, it's me, it's not

the system. Gosh, yeah, I read right on smoothly,

something must have happened to the system.

We said to assure the full

participation of racial and ethnic minorities

throughout the vocational rehabilitation process,

we added that to the end of the existing statement.

The full sentence will read: This

committee exists to recommend specific strategies

for increasing and improving services to

individuals from minority backgrounds -- and then

can we add this -- to assure the full

participation of racial and ethnic minorities
throughout the vocational rehabilitation process.

So a lot of words here, but that is the changes we are recommending. Obviously it's up to the Council whether you think these make sense.

I can answer any questions people have, but that concludes my report.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you Steve and Dan for serving on that -- let me rephrase. This is Corbb, sorry, that's going to be more important today than ever for our court reporter.

This is Corbb and thank you, Steve and Dan, for serving on that committee. Is there
discussion about the committee report?

(No response.)

Hearing none, is there a motion to accept this committee's report and accept these changes?

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, so moved.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan moves. Do we have a second?

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller seconds.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank seconds.

And we will start with a roll call with Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel, yes.

Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MS. LAFRANIERE: Gloria LaFraniere, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: I'm worried that based on what's on the screen we might have lost them.

Oh, now we are back, hello Zoom. We
lost you for a second, we are on a vote for the Committee Structures Task Force report and we are to Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: There is a motion on the floor?

MR. O'CONNOR: We lost the speakers, that's what we lost.

Yes there is, Tom. The motion is for accepting the Committee Structure Task Force's report.

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: That's a yes is what I heard from Tom Heinl.
MR. HEINL: That is correct.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

And Gloria already said yes. And

Deborah Leuchovius, I believe, is --

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah says yes.

MS. MARTINEZ: Catalina says yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina says yes.

Corbb is a yes.

Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

(No response.)
MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy is a yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan is a yes.

Jeff Thompson and Trevor and Kyle are absent.

Great, thank you everybody. And with that settled we'll move onto our Director's report from Director Natasha Jerde.

MS. JERDE: Thank you, Chair.

Adjusting my laptop so you can hopefully hear me okay.

It is so good to be here in person and
Judy it's so good to see you here. Just so it could be just like home, I should have brought my kid full of sugar and my dog and let them just go, but fortunately grandma is on duty tonight.

So I'm going to try to keep my report briefer than it has been because you are going to be hearing from me twice because I will be talking about the benefits of having a separate agency that is focused on serving people who are Blind, visually impaired and DeafBlind. So with that I'm going to start with a really important equity update.
So we have been doing this goal setting process and we have what's called OKRs or Objective and Key Results and our first one was about increasing print access in other languages.

Well, our communication team has been able to secure the Harry Potter series in Finish and are getting it ready for upload into BARD. The first book, Harry Potter Ja Viisasten Kivi, I don't speak Finish, which is aka And The Sorcerer’s Stone, is now actually available, that was uploaded on June 1.

We are also working on putting up Finns in Minnesota. But what's really cool, as a
result of this effort Lisa Larges and I were actually invited to and attended a reception at the Governor's mansion last night in honor of H.E. Mikko Tapani Hautala, who is the Ambassador of Finland. This was actually a collaboration with the Minnesota Trade Office. The stars aligned and we were able to reach out to the director, Gabrielle Gerbaud, and I asked would it be kind of like a gesture of goodwill if we could present the book or at least share a little bit about our efforts. And she was able to get us on the
agenda with the Governor's reception. So it was
really cool and we got to shake the Governor's hand
and we actually got the loudest applause out of any
other items they talked about.

Onto Community Partner updates. So
Community Partners is the phrase we are using
instead of vendor or contractor, but it's the same
thing. And right now we are diligently working
through the request for proposal process because
all of our adjustment to Blindness training and
employment-related contracts expire on June 30,
which means if we don't have new contracts in place
starting July 1, services may be halted for
customers until those contracts are in. Those submissions are coming in and they are being evaluated. It is an open RFP which means that even though it may have had a date, those RFPs are open and we keep them open for the five years. We will work as quickly as possible to award and develop new contracts to try to minimize gaps in services for customers. However, due to staff shortages within our department and our fiscal team downtown, as well as the Office of State Procurement, the sheer number of contracts
that need to be executed between our program and Vocational Rehabilitation Services, as well as the short time frame we are under, there is going to be some gaps. But Jennifer is working through those as quickly as possible.

And additionally, as I mentioned, there may be gaps in services for customers if providers are late in submitting their applications for the request for proposal or if they submitted incorrect responses which cannot be considered.

We did have a special informational webinar for partners on April 26 where we went over the request for proposal process, the application,
as well as all of the attachments to try and make it as easy and streamlined as possible, but it is a confusing process.

Our next forum is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12 and we don't yet have a topic for that, but information will be coming.

So onto workforce development. A quick data snapshot. Currently we have 49 successful closures, 5 that are pending closure and 13 who are on their 90-day countdown. June is our final placement month for getting folks into those jobs so that they may be closed by the end of
September and count towards this federal fiscal year.

The Workforce Development Unit is actually beginning to explore what it should look like organizationally to meet the needs of customers given the changes in the last two years, we are calling it rebuild, that's actually Jon Benson's term. It's looking at everything from our team structure, to our regional alignment, to how do we get counselors back to being actual counselors and not spending so much time behind a computer putting in data. We want counselors out there working with people directly. Time on their
computer is time spent away from people.

And we are just looking at VR in general because we never really completely looked at what VR should be when WIOA went into effect.

And then COVID came and it completely changed how we provided services. So it’s an opportunity to relook at that.

We are starting by potentially working with a consultant through the management analysis division. We are also going to be tapping into our own innovation lab to think more creatively on how we can reshape how we serve people.
Some hiring updates. Well, we welcomed Kathleen Wopat on June 1, she is our newest rehabilitation counselor in Rochester.

Kathleen comes actually from our department where she was an employment counselor for Job Services out of Winona.

Some Pre-ETS update. So the Summer Transition Program's employment day is on June 15 and it will be here at 2200. We are looking forward to a full and learning filled day.

We also just posted the position for a transition and pre-employment transition coordinator. This was Sheila Koenig's former
position and it closes to applicants on June 15.

So please help us spread the word.

The summer students are engaged in a variety of activities. Here are just a few examples: We have Step Up internships through the City of Minneapolis, there's a Tactile Communication program in Oregon, there are programs at BLIND, Inc., Duluth, Summer Transition program and Vision Loss Resources. And we also have a work base learning experience through Vermont's LEAP program.

Staff from the Pre-ETS team, the
Employment Team, as well as the Communication Center have been planning programs for students in the summer transition program. On June 15 we will focus on employment with panels on the ADA interviewing and exploring careers. On June 16 students will tour the Communication Center and learn about how to access print through audio, Braille and tactile methods. Tou Yang, our work based learning coordinator, will be coordinating work-based learning experiences for students in the program. Our final session of Elevate Your State, which is our multi-state program with
Paralympian Tyler Merren, will conclude on June 7.

Students will be presenting about their achievements in the program and they will be teaching an exercise to the group as well.

We have also partnered with Wilderness Inquiry for a day canoe trip on August 10. Students will learn about self-advocacy and confidence building through this activity. And actually the new program coordinator for Wilderness Inquiry was someone we knew very well, she's a DeafBLind individual who actually went through Wilderness Inquiry when she was a teen and is now actually
employed there.

And she reached out to us and said

hey, would SSB be interested in having a contract

where we can do a lot more collaboration with

students? And so we have started that this summer.

Randi Lasher, our second Work

Opportunities Navigator, has begun her adjustment
to Blindness training in Duluth. She finished up

at Vision Loss Resources a few years ago -- not

years, weeks, weeks ago. Randi is actually based

out of the Brainerd office, but really not in an

office, she is more of a remote worker.

Looking ahead to fall. We will be
partnering with a teacher for the Blind and visually impaired to deliver a virtual program about personal passports to students with multiple disabilities. The personal passport helps students to communicate their strengths, abilities and needs with others.

Onto some Employment Services updates. So our first Counselor Only Training was held on May 31. And Dave Smith and Alana Strickler, who are two of our employment specialists, met with counselors to provide some question and answer time and training on topics such as performance-based
agreements, on-the-job training, apprenticeships,
employment termination and at will employment.

Dacia VanAlstine with Marci from the Arc Job Board on disability inclusion and workplace diversity are working with a developer on how to strategize how to develop awareness of this job board. They will be doing a blog post for employers that highlight assistance from the VR programs, including SSB.

And networking and employer contacts will be conducted this week and next with Union Pacific and McLane Industries.

Moving onto Senior Services. SSU held
it's very first in-person staff meeting on June 1,

the last one was fall of 2019. It was important

for the team to gather and get to know new team

members, re-energize around our purpose and to set

goals for the coming year. They brought enough

food to last about three years, they made up for

lost time, they brought homemade coffee cake and

fruit and oh, it was wonderful.

Starting on June 8 SSU will have a new

assistive technology specialist, her name is

Maercee, but she goes by that Rece. Her last name

is Nadege. She is moving here to assume the job
from Boston. She was teaching assistive technology

at the Carroll Center for Vision Loss. She

replaces Byron Lee who left for an accessibility

consultant job in private industry.

SSU is officially back on pace to

match our normal senior served numbers. We were
down last federal fiscal year by more than 800 and

right now we are on pace to serve about 3,700

seniors in federal fiscal year 2022.

We do continue to follow all our COVID

protocols and we have had a recent uptick in
cancellations due to consumers reporting being sick

or being exposed.
John Hulet shares with the Business Enterprises Program that BEP sales at prisons, post offices and state hospitals continue to be strong. Some businesses have surpassed actually the pre-pandemic numbers. Sales at some state colleges and universities continue to be strong as other locations continue to be slow to recover.

Everything comes down to the numbers. Are there people in the buildings or not?

Unfortunately all businesses are not the same and some may not recover to where they were before the pandemic. We remain hopeful things will continue
to improve but recognize there will be far less people in government buildings moving forward.

Some BEP business owners will have difficult decisions to make regarding their current business.

While a business may close due to not being able to produce a livable wage on its own,

the locations that make up the business will be attached to other BEP businesses to assist them in trying to recoup their sales.

So some comparison numbers to share between 2021 and to the pre-pandemic of 2019. So in 2021 we have 26 BEP businesses compared to

pre-pandemic 2019 we had 28. So we were down two
businesses. The number of people employed by those
businesses is now 28, prior it was 36. The total
payroll paid by those businesses, in 2021 it was
$412,000, in 2019 it was $580,000. For sales,
3.7 million in 2021, 5.7 million in 2019, a
$2 million hit. The set-aside money we collected
from the businesses in 2021, that was 128,000 and
in 2019 283,000.

And now the average net profit. And
this does include the relief and restoration
payments that were provided. So in 2021 the
average net profit was $42,330. In 2019 it was
$46,631, so about a $4,000 net profit loss.

The BEP continues to move new equipment into businesses. And if you recall, we did purchase 330 new machines to get rid of some of those obsolete ones that are put there.

The BEP is working with the elected committee and our federal governing body, RSA, to update or Policy and Procedure Manual. We did submit the current manual to RSA for review and they'll help us determine any other updates that we may need to do.

The BEP is also working with the committee on increasing the annual fringe benefit.
to BEP operators. Typically this is around 2,000 to 2,500 dollars a year and we are hoping to increase it by about $1,000.

And we are also working with the committee on a possible vacation payment to all of the BEP operators. And right now the proposal is $3,000 payout and we would pay that from the set-aside funds.

And the chair of the elected committee is actually in the midst of conducting a survey with the existing operators to learn more about what their future plans are so we can better
understand what type of recruiting strategy we will need to implement going forward.

A current BEP operator has indicated their desire to retire in the fall. We are in the process of bidding this business out. The profitability of this business is actually about half of what it once was and the BEP is hopeful that a current operator will want to take it over and operate it. If not, the BEP is certain all locations which make up this business will be retained by other BEP operators and will make their businesses stronger.

Onto the Communication Center. So
starting with the development office, we have

received many, many, many thank you notes and we

are so grateful for the efforts and contributions

of our many volunteers and staff. Angela shares a

quote from a daughter whose 98-year-old father

accessed our services. She states, "Dad used your

services from the Radio Talking Book and the

Communication Center. Over the years he listened

to numerous cartridges and books, too many to

count. This was a lifeline and a blessing for him.

Many times when I would visit he would be listening

to a cartridge on tape. We would talk about the
current books he was listening to from Westerns to

war books to fiction and many others."

So our annual fund from October 1 to

May 25, we have received about, $142,285 in

donations. That's about 526 donors. We received

10,000 from the endowment fund, we've got about

5,200 from our planned giving, our April planned

giving activities. And through our direct mail

from November we got about $24,000.

We did meet the requirements for new

increased and lapsed donors for the Katherine B.

Andersen challenge grant and we did get a $20,000

grant award for that. And a special thanks to Joua
who is the administrative assistant for the
Communication Center because she prepared all of
the queries and the reports needed to get those
funds.

Onto Engineering/Radio Talking Book.

We are very close to having a completed Google
Assistant Play Action which will be available to
all Google Assistant users so that they can listen
to the Radio Talking Book. In fact, it could be
completed by the time you read this update. I'm
looking at Dave's face.

MR. ANDREWS: Close.
MS. JERDE: Not yet, but close.

The National Library Service for the Blind has embarked on a pilot project to get member libraries to prepare commercial audio books for BARD. SSB is participating and we have completed three Louis LaMour books and another book requested by a Minnesota patron. We have started the conversion to the DAISY format of the Harry Potter series I had mentioned in the Finnish language. We continue to accelerate our work on the Communication Center software upgrade. We have held meetings with both Keystone Systems and Hindenburg to move those projects forward.
The manual used to train SSB drivers was recently updated and two additional intermittent drivers were hired and one left us. And we continue to evaluate various websites and forms used by DEED and other state agencies. And finally, engineering personnel participated in the KLAS Users Conference, the NLS Biennial Conference and the Global Accessibility Awareness Day, all were virtual events. And I do have to do a huge shout out to Dave and the engineering team. We will be completely upgrading and updating our conference rooms so that all of
the hybrid activities we are doing will be
flawless. Hopefully by the end of this calendar
year it will be this conference room as well as the
one across the hall and our little one by the
Communication Center will be fully equipped with
the latest and greatest technology that is fully
accessible using Alexa. So that was all thanks to
Dave.

Onto Audio Services. So as we slowly
emerge from the COVID shutdown, audio services has
accepted and trained 13 new volunteer readers since
mid March. The Communication Center lost a number
of veteran volunteers over the COVID era, mostly
people who opted to step away from volunteering until the virus had run its course. Some of them haven't returned so we are very grateful for the generosity of these new folks who have applied to volunteer with us.

When someone applies to be a volunteer reader we administer a college-level reading test that they must pass for acceptance into our volunteer reader program. It's a rigorous test, only about one-third of the applicants pass. We do this because we strive to provide the highest quality recordings possible to our customers.
Many of the books we recorded are accepted into the collection of the NLS who in turn post them to their Braille and audio reading download or BARD servers. In fiscal year 2021 there were more than 15,000 BARD downloads of books that were directly produced by the Communication Center.

And last but never least, Braille. So some information from Braille. From July 1 to June 1 we have served 42 students, we have purchased 63 Braille titles from other states, we newly transcribed 283 Braille titles, we reproduced and reused 188 Braille titles. That amounts to
94,194 Braille pages purchased, almost 13,000 pages transcribed by us and almost 63,000 reproduced and reused. Total Braille pages provided to Minnesota students in K through 12 was almost 170,000 pages.

And with that shorter than ever I conclude.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb. Thank you very much, Madam Director. Hey, I hate to be picky about the audio in this room, but can we turn this down ever so slightly and see if we can kill the little ring of feedback that may be present, if that's possible? I'm looking at the guru in the
back.

MS. JERDE: You are the guru, Dave.

MR. O’CONNOR: Maybe not, that's okay.

Let's see, are there questions for our Director?

We're checking on volume level in the room, one second.

MS. JERDE: Maybe I don't know that.

MR. O’CONNOR: That's okay, we will manage.

MS. JERDE: We will manage at break.

MR. O’CONNOR: We will manage at break, no problem.
14 Any questions for Director Jerde?

15 MS. LEUCHOVIOUS: Deborah Leuchovius, I

16 have one question. I'm just wondering if I am

17 aware of people who would be interested in

18 volunteering to be readers how and where should I

19 direct them?

20 MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. We have

21 Roberta Kitlinski is the volunteer coordinator for

22 Audio Services, as well as Tony Lopez who is the

23 volunteer coordinator for Radio Talking Book, so

24 either of those you can reach out to. And Bri may

25 have a very specific contact she would recommend
and I think she is on the call.

MR. ANDREWS: Or you just contact the main number.

MS. JERDE: And Dave Andrews is saying you can also just contact the main number and they will connect you. And that main number is 651-539-2300.

MS. HOLEMAN: Yes, this is Brianna. I was going to say if you call the main number you can speak with the either of the supervisors or the volunteer coordinators directly.

MR. O’CONNOR: This is Corbb. Thank you very much. Other questions or comments?
MR. O’DAY: Hi Corbb, this is Michael.

MR. O’CONNOR: Michael, go ahead.

MR. O’DAY: So I was wondering,

Natasha, you mentioned that it sounded like there may be a couple of the vending stands that will no longer have operators. Will some of the new machines be put in those locations to kind of take the place of the operators? Because you mentioned the locations will still be part of the vending -- the BEP program, there just might not be a person there; is that right?

MS. JERDE: Mr. Chair.
MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. I will have to check back with Jon, but I believe the plan is the location would be hopefully tied to a current operator. The machines will still be replaced throughout the state, but there still will need to be someone available to operate those stands.

I think what Jon was saying is he is hoping that the current operator will just absorb those locations as part of their business instead of having to pars it out to others.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb. Other
MR. HOBSON: Rob Hobson. I just want to say that the microphone is working now, the phone, so if anyone is back here and they want to talk then here we go.

MR. O'CONNOR: Rob is just saying for those in the back of the room that the -- he has a roving portable microphone. Thank you, Apple.

Other questions or comments?

Otherwise we can move on.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Very good, thank you
Director Jerde.

Moving on then to -- I feel like every other meeting we talk about our budget or maybe every meeting, but it's time to appoint a budget task force, this one for the 2022/2023 year.

What we just did, as you may remember, if this starts to feel a little deja vu like, was an update of the 2021/2022 budget, now we need the task force who will report this out at our next meeting to cover the next fiscal year.

So I look to the Council to see who is brave enough to volunteer for what should be a rather straightforward task.
MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, I will

volunteer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan has volunteered.

Are there others?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: It's not much of a task

force with one person. I promise you this is a --

Ryan, is this an easy task?

MR. STRUNK: It really is, you

basically do what we did the year before.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl will volunteer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom volunteers, oh,
fantastic Tom. Are there others?

(No response.)

I tell my team on a daily basis I'm very comfortable with uncomfortable silence, so I can wait. Last call, I will just see if there are others.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, I will volunteer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel Ashman has volunteered, fantastic. Of the three of you, any interest on being chair?

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, I do not want to be chair.
MR. STRUNK: This is Ryan, I have done it before so I can help out.

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. Fantastic.

Ryan has volunteered to chair this committee -- or this task force, I apologize. I believe this does require a vote. And so since Daniel has a microphone very close by, he is going to kick us off.

Hopefully a motion would be helpful first, sorry, got ahead of myself.

MR. ASHMAN: That's what I was going to say, so moved.
MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel moves to appoint this task force, is there a second?

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, second.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller, seconds.

Good.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: There we go.

Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller, yes.

Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl, yes.
14                      Gloria.

15                      MS. LAFRANIERE: Yes.

16                      MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria says yes.

17                      Deborah Leuchovius.

18                      MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah says yes.

19                      MS. MARTINEZ: Catalina Martinez, yes.

20                      MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed.

21                      MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

22                      MR. O'CONNOR: Corbb says yes.

23                      Michael O'Day.

24                      MR. O'DAY: Yes.

25                      MR. O'CONNOR: Michael says yes.
Kristina is absent.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Judy is a yes, Ryan is a yes. And Jeff Thompson I think is not here but I want to make sure.

Very good, well that carries. Thank you very much. I bid you the best of success with the budget and let me know how we can be of assistance to you.

Okay. We have next a report for the Needs Assessment from Jennifer Beilke.

MS. BEILKE: Yes, this is Jennifer.
What I will report is that the task force has not met and there is nothing to report.

MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent.

MS. BEILKE: However, I will answer any questions if anyone has anything.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb.

Jennifer, do you want to give a quick synopsis of what your task force is going to work on when it does meet, for those who may be new?

MS. BEILKE: Sure. The needs assessment is a requirement, it's part of the Combined State Plan, but it is a requirement. We
are conducting our needs assessment every two years
to coincide with the Combined State Plan and so,
you know, one year you do your State Plan -- or
excuse me, you do your needs assessment and then
you need to kind of follow along on that, report on
your progress towards your needs assessment.
So, you know, I guess we need to
reexamine our needs assessment, see if there is any
areas where we need to look at, you know, some of
those gaps again.
We have talked with Natasha about
contracting with an outside agency to actually
conduct a large full scale needs assessment which
we have not done, this agency has not done in ten plus years, where we will actually, you know, bring in an outside agency. And this would be, you know, a huge undertaking working with another agency to do a full scale needs assessment. And, you know, they would do things like conducting maybe focus groups, you know, out in the community with community groups really trying to get more in depth knowledge looking at where the needs are, where the gaps, where we are not meeting the needs of our consumers because, you know, we can look at, you know, we can -- I mean,
there is so only so much we can do, you know, just
by looking at our data.

And so we can certainly review what we
have, but we can also start talking about what we
would like to do when we are able to do that full
scale needs review.

MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent. Thank you,
Jennifer. And who is serving on this task force
with you?

MS. BEILKE: Steve Jacobson, he is
always on there, Kristina Petronko, Daniel Ashman,
I believe Mohamed Mohamed was on there and one more
person.
MR. O'CONNOR: Sorry, I put you on the spot.

MS. BEILKE: No, I think there was one person -- I think Jessica Eggert, but she -- I think she signed up, but didn't actually kind of follow through the whole process.

MR. O'CONNOR: Got it, very good.

This is Corbb, thank you, Jennifer.

Any comments, questions for Jennifer on the task force?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: I roped you into a
report after all, so thank you very much on the status of that report.

Hey, the agenda says we should take a break. We are running ahead of schedule, I might suggest we move up our next agenda item, if Michael O'Day is willing and we can take a break after that. Rough consensus on this?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: The room says yes, those on Zoom, you know.

UNIDENTIFIED ZOOM PARTICIPANT: Yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Very good, good enough, we have one yes.
So Michael O'Day, the Employment Committee, is going to report on the successful employment outcome estimates for the final quarter.

MS. BEILKE: Oh, excuse me, Corbb, this is Jennifer Beilke.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.

MS. BEILKE: I just remembered and now I am blanking. Oien.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristin.

MS. BEILKE: Kristin Oien participated, she was very helpful in the Needs Assessment Task Force, so can't forget her.
MR. O’CONNOR: Excellent, thank you for that amendment.

Michael.

MR. O’DAY: Yep, I am ready.

So my report is rather short and brief. So this information came from Dave Smith in the employment section. And so according to him, SSB has 49 closures to date. Employment past 90 days is 5 and counting down to the 90-day period is 13. And that is the information that he reported to me. So there is my report and is there any questions or anything?

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk.
MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan.

MR. STRUNK: I am curious how that stands year over year from 2021?

MR. O'DAY: So I don't have those statistics with me, I know they are lower than what they were pre-pandemic for sure, but maybe someone else can speak specifically about last year's statistics.

MS. JERDE: Mr. Chair, this is Natasha.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, Natasha.

MS. JERDE: I actually have a pandemic
trend report that we run every month. Perhaps

after break I can pull that report up and share it

before I do my presentation if that would be

helpful, just a brief snapshot.

MR. STRUNK: I would find that

helpful, certainly I'm not the one that calls that

shot, so.

MR. O'CONNOR: Sounds good, we will

answer Ryan's question right after the break.

Any other questions on employment or

comments on that?

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.
MR. HEINL: What does a successful closure mean? Is it job related, is it being able to function as a Blind person or what?

MR. O'DAY: So this is Michael. I believe these are successful employment closures.

Natasha, do you want to provide some additional background to that?

MS. JERDE: Sure, this is Natasha. A successful closure means someone has been employed making more than the minimum wage in an integrated setting for at least 90 days and they are doing well on the job. And so that is what a successful
closure means. We have closed their case and we do still follow along, fourth quarter and second quarter -- or second and fourth quarter after they leave us, that is what we call like the employment retention rate. So we do care about successful closures, but we also follow along to make sure they are still working after they leave us.

MR. O’DAY: Thank you.

MR. O’CONNOR: And this is Corbb. I am going to toss one more question your way if I can. I'm putting you on the spot. Can you define what ready for work is?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. How I
define it and how others may define it is
different, but I define ready for work meaning if
you were offered a job tomorrow you would be ready
to take it with minimal supports as possible, would
be successful on that job. That's what I call
ready for work.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much,
that was a question I heard come up at the last
Employment Committee meeting, so thank you.

Other questions or comments on the
employment numbers?

(No response.)
MR. O'CONNOR: Very good. Well, how about we take -- we are scheduled for a five minute break, but how about we take ten? It seems a little more realistic. So meet back here at 6:41.

(Break taken from 6:32 to 6:41 p.m.)

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. 6:41, we will come back to order. And I will turn it over to Natasha who's going to hopefully have an answer for Ryan's query.

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. I do. I actually pulled up our pandemic report and I actually can share this -- oh, I don't have screen sharing so I can't share the screen, but our
pandemic report, which went through end of May so it's a little -- it is not quite up-to-date, but comparatively for applications, so in 2019 we had 222 applications, 2020 that went down to 178, we are spiking back up in 2021 with 199 and we are currently at 97. So for May we are a little behind, we had 14 applications in May and we had 18 in 2021.

In going to successful closures. We had a -- so in 2019 we had 89 closures, 2020 it tanked to 55 closures, 2021 we got back up to 78.

And these are calendar year, he put it by calendar
year, but 2022 we are currently at 31 from January through May. We had a banner month in February, we had 14 successful closures in one month. In 2019 the highest we had was 8. 2020 was 5 and 2021 was 6., so we had 14.

Overall we are trending upwards compared to 2020 and 2021 and I think we are on track to exceed the pandemic years, so we are trending upwards.

MR. O'CONNOR: And this is Corbb. I am not super quick with those numbers, can you do the total for the year one more time for '19, '20, '21?
MS. JERDE: Yes. And just as a note,

this is a calendar year. 89 in 2019, 55 in 2020,

78 in 2021 and we are five months in and we had 31.

MR. O'CONNOR: Got it. Thank you.

MR. MOHAMED: This is Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Where can we access that data? Can we get it in an email or can we go through the website?

MR. O'CONNOR: I believe the question was: Where can we access that data, can we get it in an email? Is that correct, Mohamed?
MR. MOHAMED: Yes, sir.

MR. O'CONNOR: Great, just a little muffled, hard to hear you.

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha, I am happy to send this out to the Council.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Natasha.

Other questions for Natasha?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Very good.

So onto our next agenda topic and good thing Natasha is not moving too far away from her microphone. So the title of this, I got some emails, I don't want to scare anybody, the idea of
where this came from is I heard from a couple of
councilmembers, myself included, that over the last
few months we -- few council meetings, rather,
we've heard a lot about work that's being done
between SSB and VRS, the Vocational Rehabilitation
Services, the general agency as it is sometimes
known. Some things where SSB is maybe using
similar procurement systems or similar
administrative tools.
And so I asked Natasha if she would be
so kind to give us a sense of where are the
agencies collaborating and where are the agencies
maybe more separate. And the reason for this is

that I have heard in other states sometimes a
desire from some officials to combine the Blindness
agency with the general agency and as will be no
surprise to those on this Council, that is not
something I think Natasha or any of the folks in
this room would be supportive of.

So I will turn it over to you,

Director Jerde.

MS. JERDE: Thank you, Chair. And I
don't know if Susan is by her computer, but I
cannot share my screen. So I did send this

presentation out to everyone, so unfortunately I
can't share my screen right now to you all, but I do have a presentation that I will roughly be following.

And I would like to thank Steve and Jennifer Dunnam in the back there for letting me use them as a guinea pig when I ran through this presentation to make sure I maybe caught any questions that could be out there.

But I actually call this presentation Same Same, But Different. It's actually a term that's used in Thailand where it means yes, we are the same, but there are some very key differences
that make us unique. And this is really looking at

State Services for the Blind and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. VRS is purely a vocational rehabilitation program, that is all they do minus a few small things. We are a vocational rehabilitation program, an older Blind program, a Randolph Sheppard program and we also have a Communication Center, so we do more than just VR.

But VRS is purely VR and they serve individuals with disabilities who do not have a visual impairment.

So every state VR agency can elect to have a separate agency specifically serving
individuals who are Blind and visually impaired.

Some states are combined, meaning one agency serves all, and some states have two agencies. Minnesota has two, has been that way, I think, since inception, which was a very, very long time ago and the intent is it will always remain separated. And I will talk about how we can ensure that will always be the case.

But I wanted to start not because I want to read laws and bore people, but I do want to say that there is some strong backing for having a separate agency. The first is there is a federal
law that says that in our Combined State Plan, which actually is a pretty important document, we may designate that an agency will solely administer VR services to individuals who are Blind and that administration would be specific to an agency. It’s not like a subcategory, there is a director or commissioner overseeing that.

We also have a Minnesota law, this is in statute, this is not just a policy somewhere, it's actually in State Statute 248.07 specifically and it says that the Commissioner shall create a division that is a distinct organizational unit to be known as State Services for the Blind. This is
separate from the Vocational Rehabilitation Unit or
VRS and with its own activity budget and it will be
within the Department of Employment and Economic
Development and our purpose is to provide and
coordinate services to the Blind.

And as part of that separation there's
actually laws around rehabilitation councils and
federal law indicates that if you have a separate
agency you would have a separate state
rehabilitation council.

And what is unique is if you are a
combined agency, meaning you are serving everyone,
you don't have these same requirements where the

majority of councilmembers must be individuals who

are Blind, but if you are a separate agency that is

a requirement.

And we too have our own Minnesota law

that forms this Rehabilitation Council and that's

248.10 and it says the Commissioner shall establish

a Rehabilitation Council for the Blind. So you

exist also in statute, this is not a policy, this

is law.

So just a little backing to show that

this is not an easy thing to just say oh, oh, okay

we are going to combine, that just seems easy. It
is not that easy and fortunately we have the law

behind us.

I did want to share just some

statistics. So right now there are 78 vocational

rehabilitation agencies across the country. There

are 22 states that have a separate agency, so 22

Blind agencies, 22 general agencies and there are

34 combined agencies. Just in the last five or six

years alone I know of two states that went and

combined and that is Kentucky and Texas and I

believe there was one more that was --

MR. HOBSON: Utah.
MS. JERDE: Utah, okay, thank you. I knew there was one more and I couldn't think, that just very recently combined. And I had talked to Texas when they were in the midst of their combination and it was a cluster, like it was awful. There were really terrible experiences. Kentucky, the director that oversaw everything was the general agency director and the Blind agency director was ultimately laid off and she moved to or she went to Florida Blind instead. But it is a very, very terrible experience for the states that do go into combination. So a case for separate agencies. Why
is it important? You know, you think well, dah, of course, but people want to know really what is behind this. So here is the controversy, here is what combinationists will say, opponents of separate agencies, they consider them to be expensive, duplicative and potentially unfair to individuals with other disabilities. Instead of maintaining separate agencies, opponents suggest that separate agencies be absorbed into combined agencies, but they are wrong, they are wrong, their reasons are wrong. So you have checks and balances and
the maximum incentive for that agency to do a good

job if you have a separate agency for the Blind.

There is attention, time and oversight placed

solely on providing those services. There are

policies and procedures that better meet the needs

of the people we are serving.

When you look at some of the policies

in general agencies they're combined, they are more

generalized, they are often limiting with

adjustment to Blindness training, they are often a

lot of focus on cost effectiveness and really

narrowing in on the costs and we know adjustment to

Blindness training can be expensive, but we also
know it's necessary.

Staff who work in Blind agencies have specialized training. Most states who have that separate agency require some level of training of their staff under a sleep shade or with low vision simulators and hopefully both.

Here in Minnesota statutorily we have to do six weeks, caseloads are smaller which means you have more one-on-one time when you have a separate agency. We don’t, and actually across the board all agencies specific to those with vision loss, they do not scrutinize costs around
adjustment to Blindness training, assistive
technology and those really vital services, but if
you talk to combined agencies those are very, very
limited and very constricted.

We have staff who specifically
specialize and are employed by us that have
specialty in Blindness specific assistive
technology, as well as accommodations. A combined
agency often have generalists who may dabble or
know a little bit about a lot of different
technology, but not specific to, let's say, screen
readers or screen magnification Braille displays.

And when served by a separate agency
individuals receive more services and they spend
more time in VR and have better outcomes and there
is actually proof of that. Separate agencies are
actually more likely than combined agencies to
provide adjustment to Blindness services,
on-the-job training and counseling and guidance.
So plain and simple our outcomes are better.
So among Social Security Disability
insurance recipients, individuals who receive job
readiness training from a separate agency,
experience better employment outcomes compared to
their peers who receive the exact same service in a
combined agency.

Individuals served in separate agencies are more likely to achieve competitive, integrated employment and they report higher income and higher earnings at closure as their primary source of support. And what I thought was the most interesting of all is that DeafBlind individuals were nearly twice as likely to be closed with employment if they received services from a separate agency. And this presentation actually has the citations of the various research journals that publish this, the most recent was actually done by Mississippi State I think in 2018.
Because there had started to be this trend of more agencies considering combining, and Mississippi said hold up, we gotta get some more research out there, so states have ammunition to justify why they should not combine, otherwise there has not been a lot of research on outcomes before that, just a few.

But I do have a case for collaboration, not combination, but a case for collaboration for VRS. Because we do collaborate frequently and I want to talk about how we do that, why we do that, but I also want to reassure that
does not mean that it's inching closer to combination.

So why is collaboration so important?

So one of the big things is around our money that we get. So we get a federal grant from Rehabilitation Services Administration and our funding requirements are state requirements, not agency requirements. So, for instance, we have a match requirement where the state has to kick in a portion of money for us to get all of our grant, that's not SSB's match requirement, it is VRS and SSB's requirement, it is one.

In addition there is a maintenance of
effort, so we have to maintain the same level of spending each year of state dollars, that's a state requirement. So where this works to our advantage is let's say VRS gets a lot of state money, more than they need for their match, we are actually $250,000 short right now because we got an increase in our grant. It doesn't matter, we won't lose our funds because VRS has more state money and can make up our loss right now.

The pre-employment transition services has a requirement to reserve 15 percent for students, that is not an SSB requirement, that is
both of our agencies’ requirement. We have to meet

that together, which means often we were actually

meeting quarterly to talk about how are we doing on

our spending, do we have any ideas for using our

funds to support students because if we fail we

fail together, so we need to support each other in

not failing and meeting that 15 percent.

In addition, our performance measures,

which is how we are basically graded by the feds,

that is not an SSB performance measure, we are in

it together. And actually VRS has a lot more

weight in those measures because they are a lot

larger.
But we negotiate together, we share data together so that when we do negotiate we know what we are asking for and why. And I already alluded to this, but we both have the same federal partner, we talk to them separately, we have separate meetings, but our liaison is the same, we have the same requirements. We also have what is call a designated state agency, that means it's your hub, it's like the physical, it's HR, it's all of those things that are downtown. We have the same HR team, we have the same fiscal team and we also go through
the same struggles with hiring and recruitment and

trying to get bills paid, so we do share those. We

also have the same unions, same job

classifications, all of that. We also use the same

case management system, doesn’t talk to one

another, but sometimes, like for instance I had an

idea to add this case review tool, I said hey VRS,

are you interested? Yes. So we get together and

we share tools and we share resources which also

means cost sharing which saves us some money.

They have access to expertise in the

resources on other disabilities that some of our

staff may not. They have specialists who focus on
autism. They have something called IPS which is specific to people with mental illness and we tap into them for their expertise.

They have a huge provider pool. We contract with about 45, they contract with I think closer to 200. So if there is someone in the middle of Virginia, Minnesota and they need a service and we have no contractors who are available, that doesn't mean that person is out of luck, it means we now have a whole other bunch of providers we can tap into, perhaps provide some training so that customer can still move forward.
with their services.

And VRS, just by sheer volume, they have a ton of data staff and a ton of contract staff. So when we are often a team of one, like Jennifer Beilke, who is incredible by the way,
sometimes she can leverage some administrative support if she is feeling overwhelmed or swamped with that.

So how does SSB and VRS specifically collaborate? So we have joint policies higher up with like fiscal and HR, we share data and performance and make sure we are doing good, we negotiate together, we are partnering with the
contracting because we can use their providers so we want to make sure providers have the easiest way to work with both SSB and VRS.

We share resources, ideas, I talk frequently with Dee, who is the director of VRS, we talk about case management system updates, there is some programs called E1MN for individuals who are on waivers, doesn't impact us that much, but we want to be at the table. And so we are working with VRS on E1MN.

VRS is applying for a Disability Innovation Fund Grant and asked if we would like to
be a part of that and we said of course. And

Olmstead, those who remember Olmstead, we have some work that we do on Olmstead, but we remain separate.

We collaborate, but we still have our own budget management and oversight that is the responsibility of myself as a nondelegable thing, I cannot even have the Commissioner operate my budget and that remains separate. We get our own separate money, our own appropriations. Our policies, procedures, rule, law, all of that is separate.

How we train our staff, how we hire, how we manage cases and structure service delivery, we pay higher
rates for many of our services than VRS does

intentionally, our org structure, I mean, I can go

on and on, our Combined State Plan, communications

and marketing.

And frankly, outside of VR we have

very, very unique programs and that is Older Blind

or, you know, Senior Services Unit, our Business

Enterprises Program and of course the Communication

Center.

So how do we ensure that we remain

separate for years to come? Well, the first thing

is we have change in administration, sometimes
every four years, sometimes eight, but it's always important to educate the Commissioner's office staff. When a new Commissioner comes on board one of the first things we do is sit down and explain, really, the purpose of our program and why what we do is so critical. It's also educating legislators.

You all have a big part in this too, advocacy by the Council and other organizations. I myself cannot lobby, I have some pretty tight restrictions on how I can do that, but you all do not. And so you all have a much louder voice than pretty much anyone else.
Other ways we ensure being a separate agency is just ensuring we are relevant,
maintaining active participation and leadership in accessibility, employment, literacy and independent living. We are at the table for a lot of things and we insert ourselves when we are forgotten.

And finally, plain and simple, if we manage our budget effectively and efficiently, that right there helps solidify having a separate agency. A lot of agencies that have combined because the Blind agency budgetarily was a mess,
was not managed well, they didn't have enough funds

or they were being monitored with constant issues,

we cannot have that, we have to run a solid

program.

And with that I complete my

presentation.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Natasha.

This is Corbb, thank you, Natasha. Are there

questions or comments from the Council?

And I realized just now that we did

not introduce those who are here in the audience

this evening, so my apologies but we invite you as

well, we will get your names for the record in just
a moment. We invite comments and questions from
you as well.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan.

MR. STRUNK: Natasha, I'm curious,

when it comes to a combined agency when you have
something like Order of Selection does that
determine people who get served as well, say, based
on disability?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. Yes,
it's based on the significance of their disability.

Blindness is considered the most significant of a
disability, according to the law, which means anyone who has -- and I believe it's specifically Blindness, not necessarily a visual impairment, they would be in the highest category. But if all the categories are closed they would not be served immediately.

MR. STRUNK: Okay, thank you.

MR. O'CONNOR: Other questions from the Council or comments or from the public?

MR. BENSON: This is Jon Benson.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jon.

MR. BENSON: Thank you. I have a comment, an observation and a comment. My
observation is just to let you all know, and
certainly Natasha too, that I was prepared just in
case a small young lady and a dog showed up, who
knows why, but it could have happened. So I was
ready to step in if needed and complete her report.

I want to point out that this last
week there were -- I was a part of an interview
panel to consider candidates to replace our
previous legal counsel Ari, Natasha, help me with
the last name.

MS. JERDE: Altman.

MR. BENSON: Yah. And so in the
course of those interviews had the opportunity to
be invited by the lead counsel for DEED, May
Parker, to let her know what it is that's important
to SSB. And one of the things that I indicated was
it is important for whoever becomes our go to legal
counsel has to be knowledgeable and expert in our
business. And our business means knowing
adjustment to blindness and what that relates to,
it means knowing how the differences between the
people we serve and the critical difference between
VRS programs and the differences between the
policies and procedures that are, in fact, same but
different in some significant ways.
So just wanted to throw that out there as well, that this is something that we continue to make sure is embedded in the knowledge of the people we have supporting us in DEED.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Jon.

Other questions, comments?

MR. MOHAMED: This is Mohamed speaking.

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Do you have any foreseeable future plans actually that are coming up that would result in both agencies being
separated?

MR. O'CONNOR: Could you repeat your question Mohamed?

MR. MOHAMED: I said do we have any foreseeable future legislation that are coming up that could result in both agencies being separated?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. We are already separated and have been for decades and there is no legislation anywhere that would hint at us combining, period.

MR. MOHAMED: Thank you.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel.
MR. ASHMAN: I would like to thank you for referencing the Mississippi study as one of the things that exists out there and I also want to thank you for providing the statutes and the law that I did not have before this.

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha, you are welcome.

MR. O'CONNOR: And this is Corbb. I think one of the things that came to mind for me was is there a chance that by using these, I think you referred to them as the folks downtown, you know, is there a chance that somebody will get wind
of this and say gee whiz, why do we have two? And

I think you have covered well the benefits of that

collaboration outweighing the risk, if you will,

right, and also outweighing the cost of duplicating

all of those services. Thank you.

MS. JERDE: And this is Natasha if I

may.

Two things. One, I already shared

with my boss, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Evan

Rowe, that I'm doing this presentation and that I

would be sharing it with them. And fortunately our

Commissioner's office is very supportive and very

aware of the benefits that SSB provides being a
separate agency.

And the second thing is, and this was something that Steve, Jennifer and I had talked about, is the importance of having this training for all new councilmembers as part of their orientation. And I will defer to the Chair on that, but we could record that and make it much more formal and allow for new members to watch it on their own time. But I think it's important to understand why we are separate, because the Council is very key in helping us remain that way.

MR. O'CONNOR: Absolutely. This is
Corbb. As someone who is on the Orientation Task Force, I would hope we don't need to convene another task force to make those updates, but I will find out for sure. But this sounds like a positive idea, unless there is objection from anyone on the Council.

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy.

MR. O'CONNOR: Hearing none we go to Judy.

MS. SANDERS: Yes, I'm not objecting, but I want to remind people that we have -- we should be very proud of what we have here, but we should never take it for granted. Because what we
saw happen in places like Kentucky, Texas, and Utah

and other places is that they thought they were

secure as well and however it transgressed, they

lost their agency.

And one of the things that is

important for us to know is that Blindness always

comes first with the agencies for the Blind and so

that if you become a person with a disability and

you are more than one disability and one of them is

Blindness, this is where you get your services. It

isn't the other way around where they decided

something else is more important and you may be
Blind but you are not -- you are served by the other agency.

The other thing people should know about rehab counselors -- councils, is that what she says, what Natasha told us is true for this Council and the State Rehabilitation Council, but there also used to be two councils, two independent living councils before 19, I think, 1992 and there was one just for the Blind and then one for everybody else like this one.

And then federal law intervened with that and now we have one council for all the disabilities, but we have maintained the importance
of State Services for the Blind and they know and

probably hear it every meeting the importance of

the separate agencies for the Blind. So we can

never take anything for granted.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb, thank

you, Judy.

Other comments or questions?

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl. That last

speaker I was getting echo, I couldn't understand,
it was repeating itself. So I don't know if it was

the mike or what.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom, I'm doing my best
to repeat for you folks across the room, so that's the echo.

MR. HEINL: Well yeah, but I can't hear you and them both.

MR. O'CONNOR: Got it, good to know.

Other questions or comments for Natasha?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. You've answered our questions, thank you very much.

Let's then, barring anyone who was taking a second to think or get to their mute button, let's move on, please, to some of our
committee reports.

Hey, speaking of committees, it would be a good idea for you to look at the committee structure document that was just put out in your email and volunteer for a couple of committees.

Maybe suggest if there is one or two that really call to you that you want to be the chair of, it would be a really good idea to do that and get that to me before, let's just say, July 15. Otherwise you might find yourself assigned to a committee.

And we are asking kindly, cajoling, pushing,

encouraging that every council member take on one
or two committees in the next year.

So remember just send me an email,

this is Corbb, send me an email and I will send out

a separate note between now and then to remind you
to pick a couple of committees. And then my goal

is to have that, then, for our August meeting we
can meet -- when we meet in August and go over

recommendations and then get the Council's approval

on who is on what committees.

Hey, we are now looking for a -- why
don't we take a pause as well while we are here

between items and just introduce those who are here

in the audience with us.
Rob, do we still have a microphone in the back available?

(Echoing.)

MR. O'CONNOR: I thought he might say yes before he unmuted. Hold on Rob, one second.

MR. HOBSON: All right, is it working now?

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.

MR. HOBSON: Okay. I'm Rob Hobson, I work for SSB, I'm a rehab counselor. And go to my right, I'll just pass the phone down.

MS. O'CONNOR: That works.
MR. HOBSON: There you go.

MS. O'CONNOR: Briley O'Connor.

MS. KENNEDY: Jennifer Kennedy,

Executive Director of Blindness learning & New Dimensions.

MS. MONTHEI: Sharon Monthei. Oh, I have a new phone.

MS. DUNNAM: Jennifer Dunnam.

MR. JACOBSON: Steve Jacobson.

MR. O'CONNOR: And there is a person to your left, Rob.

MR. ANDREWS: Dave Andrews, SSB.

MR. O'CONNOR: We will get you on the
mike in a second.

MR. HOBSON: I got it, here you go.

MR. HAENZE: Ryan Haenze from Minnesota Disability Law Center.

MR. HOBSON: Here you go, live on mike.

MR. ANDREWS: Dave Andrews, SSB.

MR. HOBSON: There you go, did you get it?

MR. O'CONNOR: Is there anyone up this side who hasn't introduced themselves?

MR. ANDREWS: People on Zoom.
MR. O'CONNOR: We are going to get to them.

Rob, you are muted, right?

MR. HOBSON: Not yet.

(Microphone feedback.)

MR. O'CONNOR: You are killing everybody.

MR. HOBSON: It's hard to mute, just saying. It won't stop talking to me, now my other phone is talking to me.

MS. JERDE: It's still not muted.

MR. HOBSON: All right. I will force it.
MS. JERDE: Okay. Let's see here if

it is plugged in.

MR. O'CONNOR: Well that was helpful,

I don't know if that was worth the pain. But those

of you on Zoom who aren't on the Council, would you

please introduce yourselves?

MR. BENSON: Again Jon Benson.

MS. KUSZ: Susan Kusz, SSB.

MS. BEILKE: Jennifer Beilke, SSB.

MR. O'CONNOR: Anyone else?

MR. HAENZE: Ryan Haenze, MDLC.

MR. O'CONNOR: Can you say that one
more time, we didn't quite catch that, Ryan.

MR. HAENZE: Ryan Haenze, MDLC.

MR. O'CONNOR: There's a question our

here of what is the MDLC.

MR. HAENZE: That's the Minnesota

Disability Law Center.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

Anyone else? And Mohamed we got you,

you're a member of the Council. Are there others

who are not councilmembers on Zoom?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: I think we got

everybody.
MS. KUSZ: Mr. Chair.

MR. O'CONNOR: I think that is Susan.

MS. KUSZ: Yes, it is. For the sake of our court reporter if I may, Ryan Haenze is sitting in place of Kristina Petronko for this evening's meeting. That's all.

MR. O'CONNOR: Very good. Not as a councilmember, just as a member of the audience sitting here representing Kristina and that team.

All right. Onto our committee reports. Do we have a representative from the State Rehabilitation Council?
MR. O’CONNOR: How about from, I know that she's in the room, State Independent Living Council?

MS. SANDERS: That's that other Council that horned in on us, you know, we have our own. But yes, we are planning a conference that's going to be statewide and there is -- anybody who wants to know more about this can ask me, but there is a youth contest where people can make art that talks about being involved in a disability movement. And if you want to enter that contest, let me know. But most people in this room, I
think, are too old, I'm not sure. But anyway, so

that conference is coming up.

There also are national conferences

that people are going to and they are having part

virtual and part in person and I don't know how

that's working. We are still meeting virtually and

offering the chance for people to come in person if

they want to. And when we do that for our SILC

meetings now that's at SSB here and they have to

sit one councilmember for sure so that in case

anybody wants to come. So Linda Lingen has done

that for the last meeting where we tried this and
nobody came, but she stayed the whole time.

And I think that's about it. Thank you.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you, Judy. And instead of asking every time if there are questions for the committees I'm gonna to let you get to your mute buttons or start, you know, screaming and yelling from the back of the room and otherwise we will just move along.

Not hearing objections, great. Is there an update from the Customer Satisfaction and Goals & Priorities Committee?

(No response.)
MR. O'CONNOR: I wouldn't think so, but I thought I would check. No meeting, thank you.

How about the Vendor Outcomes and --

MR. ASHMAN: Measures.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you -- Measures.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: In lieu of Jennifer Beilke's crushing contractual obligations, we are holding off until the contracts get a little bit more compliant. So no meeting, no update.
MR. O'CONNOR: No meeting, no update

while waiting for the crushing soon to be complete

with lots of trophies sent her direction, to

Jennifer Beilke. Great.

Minority Outreach.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Don't think Michael was able to join us. I can tell you they met and I was just there this morning, there was some discussion as well around finding additional street fairs and those types of events throughout the state. A lot of the ones that we know about are in the Twin Cities, so there was a recommendation to reach out
to some of the convention and visitors bureaus around the state as being potential inlets for us to find some of those street fairs and festivals, especially those that reach people who don't look like the majority.

There is definitely a request out there from, I think it was, from Lisa if folks want to help serve or volunteer at those events over the coming year to please let her know.

DeafBlind Committee. Trevor is not here, anyone want to give an update?

MS. KUSZ: The update is that Patrick
accidentally overbooked the meeting over our meeting so we are postponed until the end of July.

That is all.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you, Susan.

Senior Services.

MS. SANDERS: Hello, this is Judy again. We did not meet this month, but we need more people on our committee. So remember us when you are deciding what you want to sign up to do.

But our focus has been that what we want to do is find a way to encourage ophthalmologists and optometrists to refer people for our services here. And so we are working on
getting a brochure together or, you know,

information about our services and then figuring

out how we can spread the word to them. That is

going to be our main thing.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you Senior

Services.

Transition Committee.

MS. LEUCHOVIOUS: This is Deborah

Leuchovius. We met, we are looking at some

statistics for unsuccessful closures for

transition-age consumers and wanted to look a

little deeper into categories that were vague to us
of reasons why there were unsuccessful closures.

One was no longer interested in services and the

only way to get that information is to go through

the case files. And so Sheila Koenig is going to

spend the summer checking on 15 or so files to look

at so we can get an idea what that means, why

people are no longer interested in services,

looking not only at the most recent year, but at

2019 before the pandemic so that the issue of COVID

isn't the reason why people were no longer

interested in the services. And then we have a

meeting set up to follow up with that and her

results in September. That's it.
MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much

Transition Committee.

Communication Center. Steve is making his way maybe to a microphone or to the front.

MR. O'DAY: I will just talk here, it will be real belief.

MR. O'CONNOR: There is a mike right in front of you.

MR. JACOBSON: Got it.

We met just before the last Council meeting and you heard about that and have seen our minutes, but our next meeting which was scheduled
for June 9 has been moved to June 23 at 2:00 p.m.

and it will be virtual. Thank you.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you Communication Center.

And Employment.

MR. O'DAY: This is Michael. We did not have a meeting in the past two months, but we probably will have one scheduled here during the summer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you Employment Committee.

Any questions, comments for any of the committees that we might not have gotten to?
MR. O'CONNOR: Fantastic. Since we just introduced the audience, any public comment that we would like to make time for?

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy and this isn't really public comment, but do we know -- usually I get material for the -- all the material that's sent out through email and print comes in Braille and I don't think it did this month. Did I miss something or should there have been Braille material going out?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I got mine.
MR. O'CONNOR: There's someone in back said they got theirs.

MS. DUNNAM: I got mine.

MR. O'CONNOR: Two got theirs.

MS. SANDERS: Okay. I will check my mail again.

MR. O'CONNOR: Any other public comment or queries?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: You know, I heard, Judy, you mentioned that you could use some more folks on the Senior Services Committee. I wonder other committees, do you want to make a pitch for
your committee very briefly, just so that we can
make sure that everyone is aware of maybe something
that might not be in that committee structure
document? Throwing your marketing hats on for a
few seconds.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Not hearing anyone
excited to jump at the chance to market their
committee.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan.

MR. STRUNK: Not the committee
marketing thing, but I do have another item of
interest.

MR. O'CONNOR: Sure.

MR. STRUNK: So I was really pleased
to hear in Natasha's report earlier today that
volunteers who read for the Communication Center
might have their work featured on BARD at some
point. And I find this particularly noteworthy
because when I was a little kid and enjoyed reading
books so much I always wanted to be a reader for
what back then was the National Library Service for
the Blind & Physically Handicapped. But I think
it's interesting because I remember having a
conversation some years back with an individual who
used to run that section of things and they had
shared with me that they have never had a Blind
volunteer reader because in their experience Blind
people couldn't read Braille fast enough.

And I think that most people in this
room recognize the falsity of that. I suspect that
individual also now recognizes the falsity of that,
but I am heartened to know that that pathway exists
and I suspect that if there are people in this room
or people who are affiliated with SSB who would
like to sit down in front of a Braille display or a
hard copy book or something to that effect,

probably a Braille display book, would come out faster than a hard copy. Then that pathway is open, provided you have the ability to read Braille in at least a conversational pace.

You know, I certainly can't speak for the Communication Center, but I do want to put that out as a continued challenge to us as stakeholders, but also to the organization at large to break that barrier and give people who are Blind the opportunity to serve one another.

MR. ANDREWS: Dave Andrews.

MR. O'CONNOR: Dave, seeking the
floor, can you get closer to one of the mikes on the table?

MR. ANDREWS: Sure. Do we have an audience mike?

MR. HOBSON: In front of the table, there it is.

MR. ANDREWS: Thanks. This is Dave Andrews. Ryan, we do already have books on BARD, to be clear, over 600.

MR. STRUNK: Right, agree.

MR. ANDREWS: And, you know, I wouldn't preclude a Braille reader, of course, from
reading, but you know the books that we record are
the books that aren't available in any other way.
So, you know, if somebody took a book or we did and
scanned it and then put it in Braille, that would
certainly be a possibility. But most of the stuff
that we record is recorded because it isn't
available in another format. Thank you.

MR. STRUNK: Thank you.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Dave.

Last thing, unless there is any others
seeking the floor. Are there any agenda topics
that you all are wishing to be considered special
presentations and the like as we have this evening
from Natasha? We certainly have time in some of our upcoming agendas I would like to make these meetings as informative and helpful for us and the community as much as they are about the logistics and business running of our federal and state requirements.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, Mr. Chair.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yes. It's my understanding we are always looking for individuals on committees outside of the memberships of the Council, I'm wondering if there is persons
interested in what would their procedure be to make
their wishes known?

MR. O'CONNOR: I'm going to see if Dan
Ashman might have an answer to that as our bylaws
expert. I would think they would just need to
contact the --

MR. ASHMAN: I'm going to boot that
over to Susan. She is chomping at the bit.

MS. KUSZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
is Susan. Actually, Tom, I got a phone call from
someone who said they had talked to you and so I
went on the State Services website under our new
member packet under committees. There is
actually -- I just updated it because we are
working on our committees right now and it actually
gives very specific instructions that they are to
contact our Mr. Chair, Corbb O'Connor, with his
e-mail address by July 15. So that's it.

MR. HEINL: When I looked on the
website I could not find any contact information
for the Council members. And incidentally, this
individual doesn't have a computer, so on the
website isn't going to do her much good. So how
would she do it verbally rather than
electronically?
MS. KUSZ: Well, they can call me back if they so choose. I was going to go out on vacation but I can, you know, I will take that phone call and I will give them Corbb’s email address and they can -- I mean, she sounded like she understood where to go on the website, but that's really where people go is out on the website and get Corbb’s email address.

MR. O’CONNOR: And what I will say is that yes, this explains the uptick in spam that I have been receiving -- no, I am more than happy to hear from folks.

I think two points of clarification.
One is Tom, if they don't have email and don't have

a computer, call State Services for the Blind and

get to Susan and Susan will relay the message via
carrier pigeon to me.

And the second thing is remember that

individuals are more than welcome to serve on these

committees even if they are not appointed by

August. So would welcome their participation as

members of the public, the meetings are all open

and they will be better publicized going forward.

Thank you for the structured task force.

And so we are going to have some
expectations around that for exactly this reason so

that yes, somebody could always reach out and ask

where is this committee meeting, but if we don't

publicize that it's meeting it's kind of hard to

feel that you should be asked to be part of it. So

that's part of our hope in some of those structure

changes.

MR. HEINL: Did you get the email I

sent you, Corbb?

MR. O'CONNOR: This Corbb. I have

not seen anything most recently, Tom, but let's

connect offline and make sure that we are synced

up.
MR. HEINL: All right.

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy.

MS. SANDERS: I would suggest if anyone contacts me and says that they want to be on a committee but they don't use a computer and they hate it, first of all I will give them all my sympathy and then after having done that I will take the information from them and I will take dictation and send it to Corbb O'Connor and that way they will get a record of what they would like to do.
MR. O'CONNOR: And you mean you might refer them to State Services for the Blind to get some computer assistance training?

MS. SANDERS: No, I would re-enforce their not using it.

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. This meeting is off the rails.

Are there other ideas for agenda topics at future meetings?

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: At one point we had talked about all potential new onboards -- I don't
think my mike works, it might help if I turned it on, but it still isn't working.

That being said, at one point we had discussed that all onboards for SSB would potentially come in and meet us, talk to us about where their background is. And I know SSB is doing onboarding if not actively, fairly actively. It would be something that at least would allow us as a Council to maintain a presence with what is going on with SSB and the direct staff that they have because we don't always have access to that.

MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent, thank you.
MS. KUSZ: Mr. Chair.

MR. O’CONNOR: Susan.

MS. KUSZ: Thank you. I'm so glad that you brought that up. Just today we had an all staff planning committee meeting and that was one of the topics that was on the, you know, like the agenda for our upcoming all staff meeting in July.

So I would like to bring this topic forward to all staff and see -- or to the actual planning committee and see. I also would like to talk to Tara our trainer and see how her and I could maybe bring that into our onboarding process.
that we are doing now with our new staff that we are bringing onboard.

You are talking about bringing them in and having them meet the Council, correct?

MR. ASHMAN: Not just meet, but for us to potentially get an idea of who they are, what experiences they are bringing and for us to broaden our networks and let them know who we are.

MS. KUSZ: Nice, I like it, thank you.

I appreciate it.

MR. O'CONNOR: Any other future meeting topic ideas? I always welcome them via
email or phone as well, but anything else here

while we are gathered?

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman.

MR. O’CONNOR: Daniel.

MR. ASHMAN: Potentially after a large national convention of some sort having a recap for those who attended. NCSAB happened between meetings, that did not show up on the agenda for a recap.

MR. O’CONNOR: Good point.

MR. ASHMAN: On that note, too, congratulations Natasha, on your appointment to the Transition Committee.
MS. JERDE: This is Natasha, thank you. Yes, I was voluntold I would be the chair of the Transition Committee for the NCSAB, but I happily accepted.

MR. ASHMAN: My favorite kind of moment.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you, Daniel.

Other ideas, other topics?

(No response.)

MR. O’CONNOR: All right. Giving an extra second for mute buttons and such, hey, mark your calendars, I think there will be a pretty
interesting meeting, I'm looking for the date,

pretty interesting meeting on August 4, maybe

another interesting meeting on October 6, maybe

another one December 1, might be in this room, same

station, channel, et cetera.

Hey, is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, so moved.

MR. O’CONNOR: Daniel moves. Do we have a second?

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, second.

MR. O’CONNOR: Ryan seconds, very good.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Daniel.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Daniel and Frank both say yes.

Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl, are you in favor of a motion to adjourn?

MR. HEINL: Yes, I said that.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, I couldn't hear you, there was some entertainment in the room here.
Gloria.

MS. LAFRANIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria says yes.

Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius says yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina --

MS. MARTINEZ: Catalina Martinez, yes.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Corbb O'Connor, yes.

Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael says yes.
MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy says yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: And Ryan says yes. And that's it. Motion carries, we are adjourned.

Thanks everyone.

(Matter adjourned at 7:41 p.m.)
STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

REPORTER’S CERTIFICATE

I, Kimberly K. Evavold, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing transcript, consisting of the preceding 93 pages is a correct transcript of my stenographic notes, and is a full, true and complete transcript of the proceedings to the best of
my ability.

Dated: June 14, 2022

/s/ Kimberly K. Evavold

KIMBERLY K. EVAVOLD

Court Reporter