STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

BIMONTHLY MEETING
APPEARANCES:

REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND          SSB STAFF

Corbb O'Connor, Chairperson       Dave Andrews
Deborah Leuchovius, Vice Chair     Jennifer Beilke
Daniel Ashman
Frank Eller
Jessica Fordyce
Tom Heinl
Gloria Lafriniere
Mohamed Mohamed
Michael O'Day
Kristina Petronko
Judy Sanders
Ryan Strunk

Jeff Thompson

Trevor Turner

Kyle Van Acker

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: Well good evening everyone, this is Corbb. We appointed a temporary chair for this meeting at the December meeting and you all kindly appointed me into that -- elected me into that role. As Susan has mentioned a couple of times, we have a full agenda this evening and I would like to go around and if we could get everyone to give just a very brief maybe fewer than four sentences with a liberal usage of semicolons, a quick introduction of each person, especially for our new folks, but also so we can get reacquainted with one another.

So I will start. Corbb O'Connor, as I
said, temporary chair for this meeting representing industry and passionate about getting more Blind folks into employment. I've been working at a software company out of Bloomington serving as the manager of our accessibility testing program.

And Dan Ashman, you are first in the alphabet and I would love a quick intro from you.

MR. ASHMAN: Absolutely. Daniel Ashman, I am the special projects coordinator at Blindness Learning and New Dimensions or Blind, Inc. which is an adjustment to blindness training facility. We work with adults, children, seniors
teaching nonvisual comprehensive rehabilitation to blindness skills with a focus on employment as well as life skills. I'm, while not new to Minnesota, I feel like I am fairly new to Minnesota since I moved right before the pandemic and I know my apartment very well, but other things I'm still exploring on. I am glad to be back.

MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent, Daniel. We will go to Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Hi there, I'm Frank. I am totally Blind, I am originally from North Dakota, I have been living in Minnesota since December 9, 2016. And I lost my vision 2017 (inaudible)
Council for the Blind. Thank you.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Frank.

Jessica.

MS. KUSZ: Corbb, Jessica has not joined us yet.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

Go onto Tom Heinl.

MS. KUSZ: Oh, here she comes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead Tom, we will catch Jessica.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, I live in Maplewood, Minnesota, I represent United Blind and
been kicking around Blind for about 50 years now.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you, Tom.

Jessica, welcome. We are doing just

brief introductions, four sentences or less. Are

you with us yet, Jessica?

MS. KUSZ: We may have lost her again,

Corbb.

MR. CORBB: We will come back to you.

Gloria may or may not -- looking for

you on the list here.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Hello.

MR. O’CONNOR: Hello.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Hi, I’m Gloria from
White Earth Reservation. I'm their director of

White Earth Vocational Rehab. Glad to be here.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Gloria.

Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Sorry it took me a

minute to unmute. This is Deborah Leuchovius, I

represent PACER Center, Parent Advocacy Coalition

for Children's Education Rights. I work on PACER's

National Parent Center on transition and employment

and Project Launch funded by RSA to provide

training and information to families in Minnesota

and in the region on transition to employment in
1 adulthood.

2 MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much,

3 Deb.

4 And Catalina Martinez.

5 MS. KUSZ: Corbb, I do not see her name yet.

6 MR. O'CONNOR: I do not see her just yet.

7 We will go to Mohammed.

8 MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed speaking,

9 Mohamed Mohamed. I live in East Grand Folks,

10 currently studying vocational rehabilitation, I represent deaf and Blind, CRC.
MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent. And you are our advocate for those with multiple disabilities.

MR. MOHAMED: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Let's see, I would be next, but I will skip myself and go to Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Sorry, it took me a minute to unmute. I represent industry and I had been on the Council in the past and then was off for a brief period of time and now hopefully I will be back on for the next few years.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Michael.
Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Hi everyone, I am Kristina Petronko, I work at the Client Assistant Project at the Minnesota Disability Law Center which I will be telling you a lot more about this afternoon or this evening. So I fill the Client Assistance Project role on the Council.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you.

Judy Sanders, welcome back.

MS. SANDERS: Thank you. I am the liaison between this Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council. That council coordinates the eight Independent Living Centers.
throughout the state for people with disabilities
to learn how to integrate into the community.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Judy.

And another welcome back to Ryan
Strunk.

MR. STRUNK: Hey everyone, my name is Ryan Strunk and I am the National Federation of the Blind representative. I also serve as the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota. Looking forward to being here on my second term. Also during the day I am an accessibility manager for Optum Health.
MR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Ryan.

Jeff Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Hi, I'm Jeff Thompson, I'm a media producer and I teach woodworking out at the San Francisco Lighthouse during the summer for advanced and beginners. So glad to be here.

MR. O'CONNOR: And you are representing as a recipient of services.

MR. THOMPSON: Those who have received before, yep.

MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent, thank you.

Our DeafBlind community rep joining us this evening is Trevor Turner and joining us on the
Council.

MS. KUSZ: Corbb, I don't see Trevor in the list of attendees yet.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

And Kyle Van Acker.

MR. VAN ACKER: Hello everybody, I'm Karl Van Acker, I'm newly appointed to this Council, also a representative of the Governor's Workforce Development Council. And I'm currently a manager at Goodwill Easter Seals and oversee disability placement and retention services across the Metro area.
MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much.

Those who are in the audience, can we just do a quick go round of who is here.

MS. JERDE: Natasha Jerde, Director of State Services for the Blind.

MR. SADEK: My name is Tyler --

MS. KUSZ: Susan --

MR. SADEK: Oh, I'm sorry, Susan.

MS. KUSZ: Go ahead, Tyler.

MR. SADEK: My name is Tyler Sadek, I hope everyone can hear me okay, this is my first time using these headphones, but I am the current chair of the SRC. I am also the outreach and
14 training manager for a local company called
15 Parson's Electric.
16
17 MR. O'CONNOR: You sound great, thank you.
18
19 MS. KUSZ: This is Susan Kusz, I am the staff liaison for the State Rehab Council for the Blind.
20
21 MR. ANDREWS: This is Dave --
22
23 MS. BEILKE: I am --
24
25 MR. ANDREWS: Sorry.
26
27 MS. BEILKE: Go ahead, Dave.
28
29 MR. ANDREWS: This is Dave Andrews, I
am chief technology officer for SSB and engineering supervisor and I've been going to these for 27 years.

MR. O'CONNOR: Then you've got me beat. Who is next?

MS. BEILKE: This is Jennifer Beilke.

Dave, you also forgot to mention you are the cat couch too.

MR. ANDREWS: Yes, I am holding Henry here.

MS. BEILKE: Yes. I am Jennifer Beilke from State Services for the Blind. I am the liaison with our community partner contractors for
Adjustment to Blindness and Employment Services.

And I also am the liaison for our combined State Plan and other special projects as needed.

MR. BENSON: This is Jon Benson, I am Deputy Director of program services for State Services for the Blind.

MS. DUNNAM: This is Jennifer Dunnam, I currently serve on SSB or on the Council's Committee for Rules and Priorities and Customer Satisfaction and I've been coming to and participating with the Council in various roles since 1993.
1 MS. KENNEDY: Jennifer Kennedy,

2 Executive Director, Blindness Learning and New

3 Dimensions also known as Jennifer the third.

4 MR. JACOBSON: Steve Jacobson, I also

5 was a former councilmember and serving on a couple

6 of the council committees from the National

7 Federation of the Blind.

8 MS. O'CONNOR: Briley O'Connor, board

9 member of the National Federation of the Blind and

10 member of the public.

11 MR. COLBRUNN: Mike Colbrunn, former

12 councilmember as an industry rep, current

13 participant in the Randolph-Sheppard Act, Business
Enterprise Program of Minnesota.

MS. OIEN: Good evening, Kristin Oien, state specialist for the Blind and visually impaired with the Minnesota Department of Education.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, everyone.

Anyone we missed? Give you a couple last seconds to hit the mute button.

MR. TURNER: Corbb, this is Trevor Turner, I'm the public policy director for Minnesota Council on Disabilities. I apologize for being late, my computer is not working right now so
I have joined from my phone.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb, glad you are here, Trevor.

Do we have someone else?

MS. FLAX: Samantha Flax, I work at BLIND, Incorporated and I am the one who gave Jennifer the nickname Jennifer the third.

MR. O'CONNOR: Great, thank you very much.

So we'll move to we have two sets of minutes to approve this evening, those from the December 2 meeting and those from our impromptu meeting in January. So we will start with the
approval of the December 2, 2021 minutes. Is there such a motion?

MR. THOMPSON: Been so moved.

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

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, second.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Ryan. Any comments or corrections on the minutes from December 2, 2021?

MR. COLBRUNN: I'm sorry.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael, you are not muted.

MR. COLBRUNN: Oh, I'm sorry.
MR. O'CONNOR: Any corrections or changes to the December minutes?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Hearing none, we will go through our roll call. We're probably gonna have a lot of these this evening, I would love it if you remember your place in the roll call so that we can move quickly through this.

We will start with Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jessica Fordyce.
14  (No response.)

15  MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

16  MR. HEINL: Yes.

17  MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.

18  MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

19  MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

20  MS. LEUCHOVIOUS: Deborah Leuchovius, yes.

22  MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

23  (No response.)

24  MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

25  MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.
1. MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

2. MR. O'DAY: Yes.

3. MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

4. MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

5. MR. O'CONNOR: Judy Sanders.

6. MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

7. MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan Strunk.

8. MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

9. MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff.

10. MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

11. MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

12. MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

13. MR. O'CONNOR: Kyle Van Acker.
MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker

abstains.

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

The motion passes.

We now have the minutes that were just

sent a few minutes ago via email to the

councilmembers from Susan for our January meeting

and I am pulling those up. I am wondering if there

is a need for us to read these out loud since they

came out so late. Is there such a need?

(No response.)

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, move to
approve the minutes from what was it, January 6?

MR. O'CONNOR: I'm looking for the

date on this document and not immediately finding

it. January 6, that is correct. Is there a

second?

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, second.

MR. O'CONNOR: Are there comments or

corrections?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: I will voice one. Mike

Colbrunn, I don't believe, called the meeting to

order, I believe that I did. I think that's the

only correction I saw to these minutes.
Hearing no other corrections I will give you a couple of seconds as I pull up the list.

We'll start the vote with Dan Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jessica Fordyce.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius, yes.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

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

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

MR. TURNER: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kyle Van Acker.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker abstain.

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

The motion passes.

Thank you very much. We will, once I get back to the agenda, we will move to the
election of a new chair and a vice chair. And we will go ahead and open the nominations for the new chair of our Council as Mike Colbrunn's term expired.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman.

MR. O’CONNOR: Yes, Daniel.

MR. ASHMAN: I nominate Corbb O’Connor to serve as chair.

MR. O’CONNOR: And I accept, thank you.

Are there other nominations?

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O’CONNOR: Jeff.
MR. THOMPSON: I nominate Michael O'Day.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day, do you accept?

MR. O'DAY: I think I'm going to decline at this time.

MR. O'DAY: I think I'm going to decline at this time.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Michael.

MR. O'CONNOR: Are there other nominations?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Are there other nominations?

(No response.)
MR. O'CONNOR: So we have but one name for that, is there a motion to cease nominations?

MR. STRUNK: This is Ryan, I would move that nominations cease and Corbb O'Connor be elected by acclamation.

MR. O'CONNOR: I believe we need to do a roll call vote.

MR. STRUNK: That is correct.

MR. O'CONNOR: I'm assuming that's what you mean.

MR. STRUNK: Yep.

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. Is there a second?
MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson seconds.

MR. ELLER: Second. Oh, sorry.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff beat you by moments.

All right. We will go down the list.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jessica Fordyce is still not here.

Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.
MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy Sanders.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.
MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kyle Van Acker.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much for your confidence in me. Look forward to working with you.

We now move to the election of a vice chair and I would open the floor for those nominations.
MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders.

MR. O’CONNOR: Judy Sanders.

MS. SANDERS: I would like to nominate Deb Leuchovius.

MR. O’CONNOR: Deb Leuchovius, do you accept?

MR. LIJEWISKI: I accept.

MR. O’CONNOR: Are there further nominations?

(No response.)

MR. O’CONNOR: Are there further nominations?

(No response.)
MR. O'CONNOR: Do I hear a motion to elect Debbie via roll call?

MR. STRUNK: This is Ryan, I would move that nominations cease and we proceed to roll call vote.

MR. O'CONNOR: Is there a second?

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, second.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you. We will move to the vote. Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Skipping Jessica Fordyce.

Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.
MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kyle Van Acker.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

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

The motion passes.
MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, did you get my yes? Sorry about that.

MR. O'CONNOR: We got it now.

MR. ELLER: Okay. I hit the wrong button, I apologize, my apologies.

MR. O'CONNOR: Would our new vice chair like to say a couple words?

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Well, thank you for your confidence in me. I'll try and live up to that confidence as we go along.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Deborah.

All right. We now need a Budget Task Force and I'm told that we need to appoint one. Is
there a -- it occurs to me that we did -- I did not
prep for that particular item. Do we have a group
that has been serving in that role up to this point?

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff.

MR. THOMPSON: I believe Ryan Strunk, myself and Michael Colbrunn were on it last time
for the last edition of it.

MR. STRUNK: I believe you are correct, this is Ryan.

MR. O'CONNOR: Presuming the two of
you are willing to serve again; is that accurate?

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you both. Are there others that wish to join on the Budget Task Force for the Rehab Council for the Blind?

(No response.)

MR. O’CONNOR: Hearing none I would like to move forward with a motion for the two of you to serve and for Ryan to chair that task force.

Do I hear such a motion?

MR. ELLER: I motion, yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: And who is this?
MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, sorry.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller moves and do we have a second?

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, I second that.

MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent, thank you very much.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.
MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.
MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Corbb O'Connor, yes. Thank you very much, we are getting good at these roll call votes, we might be there by the end of the night that we don't need any direction on this, this is great.

And then we have a conferences in April. Susan, do you want to give a quick synopsis of those and what we are in need of?

MS. KUSZ: Well, the Council -- this
is Susan, thank you, Corbb. Typically the Council
decides on how many people are going to attend. I
believe once again it is going to be virtual and
then people usually just let me know or the Council
will decide on who they are going to send and then
I go ahead and register whoever is willing to go.

Are there any questions? And Jeff
probably could have answered this, did I miss
anything, Jeff?

MR. THOMPSON: I believe if you do
attend there is a per diem. If you so desire to
take it you have to be there a minimum of two
hours, I believe it is, per day.
MR. ELLER: This is Frank Eller. This is virtual?

MS. KUSZ: Yes, I believe at this time it still is being offered virtually. They are not allowing people to travel, so.

MR. ELLER: Perfect. This is Frank Eller, I will attend should the Council have me.

MR. O'CONNOR: Are there others wishing to attend the April conference?

Judy.

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy Sanders.

Probably, but do we need to know the cost per
person so we can figure out how many people can
reasonably do it according to our budget? Because
there is a registration for it, even though it's
virtual.

MS. KUSZ: This is Susan, if you give
me just one moment I will tell you what the answer
to that question is. It appears that for the CSAVR
conference, full conference -- is this the one we
are talking about or are we talking about NCSAB?

MS. SANDERS: Well, we are definitely
talking about NCSAB. CSAVR we used to go to that
because it was all in the same week, but what many
of us discovered was that a lot of the items are
repetition and the NCSAB, which is National Council for State Agencies for the Blind, is far more relevant to what we do. So I don't know, but my opinion would be NCSAB is what we would be talking about.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I believe last time we okayed to have five people sent, so once we hear the formula that Susan will project that will give us a number and that number, I don't think we exceeded that number last time.
MS. KUSZ: No, we did not, this is Susan. I am not finding anything out on their website, perhaps Natasha or Jon Benson may know something. I know that the CSAVR one, the registration is currently open for the conference in March. Is there another staff person that knows anything?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha.

MR. O’CONNOR: Go ahead, Natasha.

MS. JERDE: I don’t think that NCSAB released the cost yet or much detail. I think it will probably be reminiscent of what it was in the fall, which was just maybe 100 to 200 dollars.
It's going to be a very minimal cost compared to what it has been.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff.

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to motion that we send up to five people with a budget of $1,000 to the NCSAB this spring.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, second.

MR. O'CONNOR: Susan, will having just the count be enough for the time being while we wait for the specifics from the conference to be released?
MS. KUSZ: You may want to go ahead and decide on who those representatives would be just in case the dates for the conference end up being prior to when the next council meeting is.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O’CONNOR: Feedback from the Council. Yah, Jeff.

MR. THOMPSON: I think it would be nice if, you know, if people are interested in going to it that they could let Susan know or the chair know, you know, within a week or two, because without knowing the exact dates and everything --

MR. O’CONNOR: Yah, I would agree.
Sorry, Jeff, I stepped on you.

MR. THOMPSON: Go ahead.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy, go ahead.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl.

Tom, I got you in line. Judy, go ahead.

MS. SANDERS: Well, my thought is, though, that knowing that we could back out if it turns out to be dates when whoever said they were going to go is not available, since there is cost involved and we have to okay the expenses for these people, otherwise -- anyway, I think we should
elect them knowing that some people may have to change their mind, then we worry about it.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you. Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yah, is that thousand dollar figure just for the registration fee or is that including the per diem if people are willing to take it?

MR. O'CONNOR: That is the -- I believe it was 100 to 200 dollars, so five people may be where you are thinking a thousand, does not include the per diem.

MR. HEINL: Okay, all right.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.
MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff.

MR. THOMPSON: I don't think in any motion before we considered the per diem part of it; is that correct, Susan?

MS. KUSZ: This is Susan. Yes, Jeff, I do believe that is a correct statement.

MR. O'CONNOR: So let me ask this.

Judy, I would be happy to take your comment in just a second, I may answer it.

Who is interested in attending the conference if the dates should align with their schedule? Could you say your name and I would
throw my name on that list.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders.

MR. O'CONNOR: I heard myself, Tom Heinl, Judy Sanders, Jeff Thompson.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman.

MR. O'CONNOR: Dan Ashman.

So that's six individuals.

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy Sanders.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes.
MS. SANDERS: Since I have gone several times, I will back out and then you have got five.

MR. O'CONNOR: It was going to be my recommendation I was wondering if we wanted to hear a friendly amendment to send those six individuals and we can always make a change later. We are talking an insignificant amount of money in my view to send a sixth person.

I think it was Jeff's motion we were working with.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm good with it.
MR. O'CONNOR: And who was our seconder?

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, I believe.

MR. O'CONNOR: And you are okay with this change?

MR. ELLER: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Very good. Are we good to move to a vote?

MR. THOMPSON: I would also like to move to $1,200 instead of 1,000 just so it covers all six times 200.

MR. ELLER: This is Frank Eller. Is it $1,000 a person, is that awarded to each person or
is that an expense to the attendee?

MR. O'CONNOR: Yah, this is Corbb.

That's the registration cost, we estimate registration cost for six individuals. I am going to suggest that the motion be six individuals, the registration and potential per diems and we leave it at that, knowing the costs will likely be around that number. Work for you, Jeff?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Great.

Let's move to a vote. Dan Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.
MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jessica Fordyce.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl -- sorry.

MR. O'CONNOR: No, no, I appreciate it. I was just checking if Jessica joined us. Go ahead, Tom.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

Deb Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy Sanders.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kyle Van Acker.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

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

motion passes. Thank you all very much.

We have one last quick vote, I would believe, and then Natasha we would like to hear your Director's Report. And that is that as the DeafBlind representative Trevor Turner has joined us and we need to appoint Trevor to the DeafBlind Committee.

I'm understanding that we may
potentially have an open chair's spot for that, but

I don't believe that we have -- I have not been

able to confirm that with the current chair who is

still the chair of that committee.

So what I would like to see if there

is such a motion to appoint Trevor Turner to the

Deaf/Blind Committee and then we can -- Trevor, you

and I can connect and we can work out with that

group who the chair should be at its next meeting.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, so

moved.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, so moved.
MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, that would be great.

MR. O'CONNOR: I heard Jeff Thompson moving. I'm gonna assume, Tom, you want to second that motion?

MR. HEINL: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: And Trevor, I heard you talking but I didn't hear what you said.

MR. TURNER: I apologize, this is Trevor, I was just saying that would be great to meet.

MR. O'CONNOR: Fantastic, thank you.

Let's move to a vote.
14                      Dan Ashman.

15                      MR. ASHMAN:  Daniel Ashman, yes.

16                      MR. ELLER:  Frank Eller, yes.

17                      MR. O'CONNOR:  Tom Heinl.

18                      MR. HEINL:  Yes.

19                      MR. O'CONNOR:  Gloria LaFriniere.

20                      MS. LAFRINIERE:  Yes.

21                      MR. O'CONNOR:  Thank you, Gloria.

22                      Deborah Leuchovius.

23                      MS. LEUCHOVIUS:  Yes.

24                      MR. O'CONNOR:  Catalina Martinez.

25                      (No response.)
MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Trevor Turner.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Kyle Van Acker.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: And Corbb O'Connor,

yes. Motion passes, thank you very much.

Natasha, we are excited to hear your

Director's Report.

Susan, is there --

MS. KUSZ: Yes, Corbb, this is Susan.

I just want to let you know that Jessica officially

has stepped down as chair from the DeafBlind

Committee.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much.

MS. KUSZ: You're welcome.

MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Natasha.
MS. JERDE: Well hello everyone. For those who are new to the Council, just as a heads up I have a four-year-old and now a nine-week-old puppy so I don't know what's going to happen. Jon Benson has been notified that he will take over my report if it gets a little hairy in the Jerde household. My husband works second shift so it's just me holding down the ship. So with that I would will jump into my Director’s report. So first I just want to wish a warm welcome to all of our new and reappointed members. And for those who are returning I am looking forward to working with you all again.
As a councilmember you are important in advising the work of State Services for the Blind. You also can be the voice to stakeholders, legislators and the Governor’s office when SSB cannot. I encourage you to ask questions, share ideas and volunteer to serve on one or more of the subcommittees that we have.

A note on our Equity Objective and Key Results. So State Services for the Blind has established an objective and five key results around equity. Councilmembers will be most welcome and encouraged to join our conversations and
participate in any of the five work groups we are forming to come up with strategies to achieve our goals. We will share progress in achieving our OKRs at each council meeting.

So our objective is that SSB will understand the composition of those currently receiving services, this means that we are going to know our data and that we can share that data out.

SSB will increase the number of people from underrepresented communities who receive those services and underrepresented does not mean just race and ethnicity. It will also include those individuals who have more complex disability
related needs.

And finally, SSB will improve the quality of the services we provide so it's one thing to increase the numbers, but it doesn't mean anything if we are also not focusing on the quality of our services. And we need to ensure that our services are meeting all of those individual needs.

So there are five key results, which is just basically a fancy thing of what are the things we are going to do to get to our objective.

And the first key result is that SSB's Communication Center will increase access for
people with a print impairment and speak other
languages by transcribing five print materials into
alternative languages. We are specifically
targeting Hmong, Karen, Somali, Anishinaabe and
Dakota.

Our second key result is that our
workforce development/vocational rehabilitation
unit will analyze successful and unsuccessful
closures by demographics. We will be looking at
race, ethnicity, gender, region of the state and we
will identify service gaps and needs. And from
there we will development and implement an action
plan for resolving those areas.
The third key result is that SSB will foster an ongoing relationship with the Veteran's Administration and the VA Hospital to increase SSB's exposure and connect with Vets.

Number four is that our Customer Satisfaction Survey will incorporate demographic information such as age, race, ethnicity so that we can analyze quality of services provided based on that information.

And our fifth key result is that we will develop a comprehensive talent recruitment plan that actively promotes job openings to
underrepresented communities. Hiring managers will work with human resources to remove barriers to the application and interviewing process, which could include training on inclusive interviewing.

We will also work with HR on modifying job posting language so that it is more inclusive. And we will be reviewing the minimum and preferred qualifications for all vacant positions to ensure we are not excluding someone unnecessarily.

Our staff has been given until February 11 to volunteer for one of the five key result work groups. From there they will be developing and implementing a project plan and
14 strategies to achieve each one.

15 At the end of this calendar year they
16 will be doing a capstone presentation at our winter
17 all-staff to share out on all of things that we
18 have accomplished.

19 Onto our Administration and Operations
20 Unit. We will start with community partner forums
21 and updates. So work continues on preparing for
22 the next cycle of our community partner contract.

23 We are working with Vocational Rehabilitation
24 Services to make our contract more consistent when
25 appropriate. We are aiming to have the request for
proposal posted in the State Register by late February.

Combined State Plan Update. Well, I think Jennifer Beilke is next and will be presenting on those modifications. We were required to submit our portion on Wednesday and by Friday of this week submissions will be combined into one document and posted online for public comment. After that public comment period we will be able to make changes to our portion of the State Plan.

Marketing and Outreach Updates. We've initiated a series of conversations with outreach
staff and other state agencies and with diversity

and equity staff within DEED, our department. The

goals are to better coordinate our messaging and

outreach efforts to make sure that other staff who

work for the state and regularly meet with the

public know about the work of SSB and to get new

ideas for outreach.

Lisa Larges, who is our coordinator,

is working with Dan Gausman, Jeff Bail and the

audio services team on potential new material in

Somali and Hmong. She is working with Scott

McKinney and Brianna Holeman to bring together our
2021 Annual Report and she will be speaking to the Indian Affairs Council in early March. Lisa has also been invited to begin the process of being an Accessibility Champion for the state, sharing some of the work that Dave Andrews has so carefully cultivated. And she is also beginning some work on reviewing and updating our website, which you can easily find at MNSSB.org.

Some Facilities Updates. We are installing a new security in our 2200 building. An upgrade will include a new doorbell chime for the front desk so that they can buzz people in as currently our front doors are locked. We are also
getting a new front door camera, as well as some

new monitors for Radio Talking Book camera display.

And for when we are all back together,

hopefully one day, our conference rooms are going
to be going through a really big update. We are

preparing for a hybrid world and we are adding
technology marvels to each conference room and Dave

Andrews has been leading the charge on that.

We are waiting on our IT department's

approval for the use of Alexa and we are still
testing Alexa with some of our accessibility

software and working through any software issues.
And then Workforce Development or our Vocational Rehabilitation program. So I will start with some numbers from October 1 to January 31. We have received 64 applications, we have 607 open cases, 22 successful closures and 63 unsuccessful closures.

And my favorite topic, Hiring Updates. Our pre-employment transition services manager supervisor position, that comes down on February 3 and we anticipate starting interviews mid month. Ashlyn Cahill filled the quality assurance specialist role. Some of you may recognize her name, Ashlyn worked for us previously as a
rehabilitation counselor, left for a stint in another field and then has returned to us.

We are on the fourth times a charm for our posting the northeast region counselor position. We have had an extremely challenging time getting qualified applicants for this position. I believe it's about 11 counties and the person does not need to be stationed in Duluth, they could be really anywhere in that area as long as they are able to meet the customers.

We welcome Lori Thompson as our newest Metro VR tech, she formerly served actually on this
Council. She will be providing half time support
to our key employment transition services team and
the other half supporting a general caseload
counselor.

We are in the process of posting a
second work opportunities navigator which will be
located in greater Minnesota. This will bring a
partner in crime for Tou Yang, who is our current
work opportunities navigator finding work
experiences and such for students.

And we welcome Alisha Otteson as the
new Southwest Metro counselor position. She
replaces John Hamilton who retired in early
January.

For Projects and Initiatives. While we are currently investigating solutions for a really big issue and that is that there is a severe lack of job coaches across the state. This is not just something SSB is experiencing, everyone has noticed the impact of the lack of job coaches.

We've even had to have people wait to start jobs because we didn't have a job coach we could find.

We've even been doing a lot of in-house job coaching ourselves, which is difficult when we only have four employment specialists for
the entire state. We are looking at the possibility of a little in-house support, but it's too early to report anymore on that.

Pre-ETS Updates, courtesy of Sheila Koenig. SSB will be hosting a Pre-ETS forum for our community partners on February 8 and, in fact, not just SSB's community partners, we've extended the invite to Vocational Rehabilitation Services 120 plus partners. Because fun fact, SSB can actually use the contract that VRS has and there are a whole host of folks out there that may be able to serve our students.

The first hour we will be reviewing
logistics of pre-ETS and in the second hour our rehabilitation teachers, Kiann Shar, will offer tools and techniques for working with people who are Blind, low vision or DeafBlind.

Robin Padilla, our new Pre-ETS counselor, is now at her staff adjustment to blindness training. We look forward to having her return mid March and hit the ground running serving our students.

SSB's monthly student program we call Bring Your A Game, continues to draw students. On February 1 we connected via Alexa skill, Wayne
Investigation, to problem solving in the workplace.

Our department, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, along with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education are producing a series of stories that will help us all engage Minnesota students and youth with disabilities and excite them in thinking about their plans for employment. We are working with Kevin Kling Productions for this project.

We are also tracking our graduating seniors to make sure they have needed assistive technology and orientation and mobility skills as they leave high school or transition programs.
SSB continues to be represented at the Minnesota Department of Education's accessibility office hours and most recently Allison O'Day and Allen Warner in our Braille unit facilitated a breakout room about Braille and tactile graphics.

We will be putting together a list of summer opportunities for students soon and we will be featuring potential internships and other Pre-ETS programs.

Onto Policy, Performance and Training under our VR program. So our program year 2021, quarter one, which spans from July 1, 2021 to
September 30, 2021, those dated dashboards are out and I'm here to share what they have to say.

So the first thing is our measurable skill gain rate, which basically measures progress at achieving education and training milestones, that rate was 3.2 percent which seems very, very low with only seven MSGs claimed. However, when you think of the time period, there's really not a lot of people graduating education programs, there's not a lot of people in school during that time getting report cards. We anticipate a big jump in our quarter two numbers and, in fact, SSB was, I think, in the top three Blind agencies in
the country for MSG rate and I hope to eventually
get to number one and I think we might.

Our in-house disability related skills training. So we reported zero customers receiving
an in-house service, however, we know that's not
true, we are providing a lot of in-house services
and we found we have a reporting issue that
Courtney Wanick is working on.

During this time frame we reported
working with 137 students, 113 of which received at
least one pre-employment transition service.

Our employment rate has risen a bit
from 2020, quarter four. That rate was 44.9 percent and for the quarter one I'm referring to we had a rate of 46.9 percent. And overall for program year 2020 that rate was 38.8 percent.

So what employment rate means, if it's 50 percent or higher it means we are closing more people successfully than unsuccessfully, a rate lower than 50 percent means that we have actually more unsuccessful closures.

Employment Services Updates. So we have actually been helping with some job coaching for two individuals who started at Amazon in January. The company has been extremely
accommodating. They have placed textured tape throughout the building for navigation. The computer at the workstation is operated by voice over and they have speakers in order to hear the audio. They have actively modified the workstation to make things safe and easy to operate and have included bump dots on those stations.

And since we haven't been able to have a job coach present for ten-hour shifts due to the shortage we are facing, staff have been assisting these two individuals in learning their jobs and navigating the warehouse.
The employment services team continues to collaborate with CVS and Hired to get individuals with disabilities trained and into CVS’s medical call center. The training actually is a funnel for several local call centers, so there is also options with other employers. And then Senior Services. So as we continue to look for ways to invest in our Aging Eyes Program, we identified a creative way to put some additional funds towards it, absent any legislative action to increase our state dollars. So Lisa Larges, our marketing and outreach coordinator, has been primarily paid using
And Judy is probably very familiar with this, we get funds through the State Wide Independent Living Centers and those independent living funds have been put towards a portion of her salary, however, much of what she does supports all of SSB, not necessarily Aging Eyes, and she has been doing a lot of work on behalf of our Vocational Rehabilitation program. She puts together the State Rehab Counselor Report, she markets all of our services to a wide range of people, she cultivates success stories and shares them out and a whole host of other vital marketing
and outreach services and keeps us on the map. So
we are going to use those independent living funds,
which is about $60,000 or so, and putting it toward
Aging Eyes.

And then we are going to be putting
our primarily vocational rehabilitation dollars
towards her position, along with, you know, other
funds that we have. But Lisa will be working with
the deputy directors and myself to enhance her
position to be less focused on Aging Eyes and more
on SSB as a whole at our vocational rehabilitation
program. She's going to be critical in our equity
and inclusion work, marketing our open position and
outreach to our community partners.

And Stacy Shamblott, our Aging Eyes coordinator, will then have the funds to support the Aging Eyes program to meet more individuals' needs.

Onto Business Enterprises. So sales at prisons, post offices and state hospitals continue to remain steady. Sales at state colleges and universities, those fluctuate week to week and they are about half of what they were pre-pandemic. And sales at federal and state office buildings, no surprise, continue to be drastically reduced or
nonexistent as most of those staff are working remotely.

Our BEP operator, David Starnes, is retiring from the BEP, his business will be put out for other BEP operators to bid on. And the BEP has dispersed about $125,000.

Hold on one second. Jon, would you be able to step in with BEP? We are having a puppy/daughter fight right now.

MR. BENSON: Absolutely, I think we can all understand that.

All right. So I will pick it up here,
it will be a cold read for me so apologies in advance for that. So the BEP has disbursed about $125,000 to BEP operators over the last couple of months. Each BEP operator is eligible for a one time payment of $5,000 from the Federal Commissions Fund. This fund accumulates from unassigned vending commission received from federal buildings. These funds are being disbursed to assist BEP operators and their vending operations during the pandemic. The BEP is ready to submit its annual RSA 15 report to the Rehabilitation Services
Administration. This report provides a summary of the financial profit and loss, training and other activities of the BEP. RSA has delayed the deadline for submitting the report to mid February as it determines how it would like a specific piece of data documented in the report.

The BEP has received 260 out of 330 new vending machines ordered last federal fiscal year. The program has started to make plans to move this equipment into BEP businesses to replace obsolete vending machines. The BEP is working with the elected committee of Blind vendors and RSA to updates its policy and procedure manual.
Next up Communication Center. So Angela Bodensteiner in our development office as of 1-24-2022 in Federal Fiscal Year 2022, we have raised $66,345. And there is Natasha. Do you want to pick it up or shall I continue? MS. JERDE: Sure, sure, I can pick it up. MR. BENSON: Okay. I'm ready if you need it though. MS. JERDE: Thank you and sorry everybody.
So we received $66,345, in addition we also got $10,000 in our Endowment Fund. So in 2021 in total we received about $195,648 from 949 gifts. This is about $40,000 less than what we got in 2020, which is, of course, not a surprise as many of donors have been impacted by COVID.

And our November direct mail solicitation letter that went out highlighted a young child who accesses our Braille services. That mailing has brought in 325 gifts totaling about $22,655. We also received two separate donations from an estate for $4,500 and $10,000. We are now working on the March 2022 Planned Giving
Newsletter which will focus on tax benefits of

giving and estate planning.

Updates from Engineering and Radio

Talking Book. I do want to first say that Scott McKinney is out on medical leave for an

undetermined amount of time, he is doing okay.

Joseph Papke will be stepping in as the supervisor in a temporary work out of class position effective
today. And Joe has been an intermittent broadcaster and is familiar with the programming,
technology, volunteers and has a professional

reputation with his colleagues.
And in the Engineering Unit we continue to make progress in updating our physical facilities and software replacement. Department of Administration has finally outlined what we need to do to move forward with our software purchases. The Alexa Skill that works on the Amazon Echoes and other devices has been updated. It now offers access to the Radio Talking Book archives and we've also finished work on an update to the smart phone Radio Talking Book apps for IOS and Android. They have been submitted to the stores, their respective stores, and may be available today, we never know when they are going to hit.
And this work also included doing some quality assurance reviews with a variety of users over the past few weeks. The updated apps now offer easy access to the Twin Cities newspapers, as well as the New York Times, you can jump forward or back by 30 seconds when listening to programs from the archives.

And finally, there are some bug fixes and improved navigation and on our website we have added the Twin Cities Newspaper and the New York Times.

Jeff Bail, with Audio Services, shares
that for October, November and December of 2021

we've had 93,401 NFB Newsline hits, we've

circulated almost 1,200 pieces of equipment and

accessories, transcribed or recorded about 5,224

print pages. We redistributed about 634 of those

pages and structured almost 21,000 pages.

As mentioned several times before, we

are so excited to have produced three foreign

language accessible audio books which you can check

out. We did the Oshkaabewis Native Journal, the

What Color is My Hijab, which is a Somali language

children's book and Follow the Black Birds, a

collection of poetry written in English and Dakota
Language by Dr. Gwen Westerman.

These books are in the process of being uploaded to BARD from the National Library Service and should be available to download nationwide. And the authors have actually expressed interest in making more foreign language books and we're really excited to partner with them. We are also reaching out to the Hmong and Karen communities in Minnesota in hopes of developing some contacts and collaboration in those languages. And if any of our councilmembers or members of the audience have contacts we can
connect with, we would be most appreciative.

And we also anticipate foreign language accessible audio books are going to become increasingly available through this international agreement some of you may have heard of which is called the Marrakesh Treaty. This treaty makes the production and international transfer of especially adapted books for people with blindness or visual impairment easier by establishing a worldwide set of limitations and exceptions to traditional copyright law.

And in addition to our traditional audio transcription services we are so energized by
the prospect of being able to serve Minnesota’s diverse ethnic communities in their native languages and we are always looking for ways to do so.

And last but never least, some updates from Jay Mareska in Braille. He shares some data on our Braille services provided to Minnesota students in K through 12. Starting on July 1 through January 31 we have served 42 students, purchased 61 Braille titles from other states, transcribed 222 Braille titles ourselves, reproduced and reused 157 Braille titles. And we
have for all in 440 Braille titles have been provided. And if you break it down by pages, that's almost 95,000 pages purchased from other states, about 10,400 pages that we transcribed ourselves, reproduced and reused about 58,000 pages and all in almost 163,400 pages provided to Minnesota students.

So with that I want to thank you all and apologize for any disruptions. Are there any questions?

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan.

MR. STRUNK: So two things. First of
all I want to say I very much appreciate the work that you are doing with the OKRs around diversity and making that a part of all of staff work. And in addition, the work that Lisa is doing around being a Champion for accessibility within the greater agency, because I think the biggest part about changing a culture and really building on that is to make it part of more people's work. So very excited that you guys are doing that and props on that.

I wonder if you could speak to, I noticed you mentioned 63 unsuccessful closures,
what contributes to unsuccessful closures and can
you speak to that number a little bit?

MS. JERDE: Sure, this is Tasha and

Jon, I may be tapping into you for more detail.

What has historically been known is the primary reason we lose people is because we lose contact with them or they say you know what, I’m just not interested. There have been a lot of staff turnover over the last two years and you will not be surprised by that, considering all the hiring updates I have shared that attributes to customers losing motivation, they may not have been -- they maybe have been in transition with new counselors,
they may have just decided you know what, not

interested. And some people we just can't track
down and with that, Jon, I wonder if you have any
additional detail?

MR. BENSON: I don't, but we can get

it. One of the things we do when we do an
unsuccessful closure is there's a variety of
categories that would -- that a counselor can
choose from to identify why that closure occurred.

And so I will follow up with Courtney

and with Monseur and we can pull those categories
out and we can have a much better idea of what this
is. So stay tuned and we will get that to you all.

MR. STRUNK: Very cool, thank you.

MS. JERDE: And I should probably add, because I think I misspoke, we actually have not had a lot of turnover in the last few years, in fact, we've had zero negative turnover, but we have been rebuilding for two years after a very large turnover issue. So I did want to point that out, we've actually -- like I said, the only people we have lost is due to retirement.

MR. O'CONNOR: Other questions for -- this is Corbb, other questions for Natasha?

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius.
MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Deborah. I was interested in what you had mentioned very briefly about a project with Kevin Kling Productions that SSB and VR and MDE are working on stories. Is this for students on careers or employment or do you have anymore information on that?

MS. JERDE: This is Tasha. I know Sheila sent me some information recently, while I am looking for that Jon, do you happen to have some additional information about that?

MR. BENSON: Yah, I can give you a
little bit. The genesis of this was actually way back in the last, boy, last spring. And our partners at VRS and we were trying to determine if there are some clever ways that we can engage with students in our Pre-ETS programs to think about themselves and think about their futures in a different way.

And I had actually seen Kevin Kling do a few presentations at some conferences, I thought he did a fantastic job, he is an excellent speaker. Some of you may be familiar with him, he is a playwright writer and performer.

And so we sat down and started talking
to him, representatives from SSB and VRS, and he was keen on the idea. He has a disability himself, he knows what this is about, he's been there, done that and is just really -- is able to make a connection that a lot of us really would envy if we could do what he does. So the idea is that he would put together a variety of different experiences, if you will, presentations that would include Pre-ETS youth and the things that they have done, that they want to do, that they are thinking about and begin to pull those together and have them be a package that we can then present not only
to our staff, but to schools, to the public at large.

So that's kind of more than a brief overview, but I hope that gives you the foundation of where this is coming from and what we are striving to do.

MS. JERDE: Thank you.

MR. O’CONNOR: Are there other questions?

MR. O’DAY: Hey Corbb, this is Michael.

MR. O’CONNOR: Go ahead, Michael.

MR. O’DAY: I actually had two
questions, one was a follow-up in regards to the unsuccessful closure. Is there an RSA standard for what the proportion of successful to unsuccessful closures should be?

And then my second question relates to the BEP program. A lot of organizations, even after COVID, are moving to a hybrid employment where people are working from home maybe three days a week and in the office two days. I'm guessing that that's going to really impact vendors who have stands in federal and state office buildings and I am wondering if there is any thought about the
future beyond COVID and how that's going to affect the vendors?

MS. JERDE: This is Tasha. I can start to talk about the RSA question first. So there used to be something back before WIOA called Standards and Indicators and there used to be performance based on employment rate, that is no more.

So it's still important, it's still a performance piece that we look at, but RSA does not, I guess, score or judge against it. However, we want to and need to see above the 50 percent, that means we are closing more people successfully
versus unsuccessfully. Average for other states I

will have to -- I don't want to say a number and I

am just pulling it out of my head, but I know it is

greater than 55 percent is kind of the national

average, we are below that right now.

We actually had exceeded that

pre-COVID, we were on a really good trajectory to

having a great employment rate, probably the best

we ever had, and then COVID hit and that is no

more. We are starting to see an uptick again and I

am looking forward to what the next year or two is

going to bring.
As for the BEP, Jon, you may have some additional information, John Hulet would definitely be the best to speak to this, of course, I know, Jon, you know.

MR. BENSON: A little bit, thank you Natasha.

Yah, Michael, that's an excellent question, it's one that's been on our minds for the last two years or whenever we went into lockdown as a state. And I don't have an answer for you that I can say well, here is the solution. We do anticipate that this is going to have an adverse affect long term on our operations and our
operators, but what and how that's going to look is

going to be -- we don't know yet.

We may see more academic institutions

returning to classroom and on campus activities,

but in terms of some of the work places, hard to

say. Some places like a postal center or so forth

are gonna probably continue to operate as much as

they can with as many staff as they need to do the

work, but others really don't know. And in fact, I

am going to ask Mike Colbrunn if you are able to

respond at all to any of these, Mike? You are more

on the ground on that than I am with that. So if
you have a thought on that please contribute, but we certainly can follow up with Mr. Hulet as well and ask for his perspective that we can share.

MR. COLBRUNN: This is Mike Colbrunn.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yah, go ahead, Mike.

MR. COLBRUNN: Thanks, Corbb. Thanks, Jon.

Actually for those of you that may not know, I am the elected chairperson for the elected committee of Blind Vendors and also involved nationally. I am on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Blind Merchants, Division of NFB, and we think about this all the time. As a
matter of fact, at the beginning of COVID we sort of anticipated that nationally we may lose up to 500 businesses as a result of this. Obviously Jon and Natasha both indicated that it is devastating, but things that we are exploring are how can we expand our business in the locations that we are currently located? And that may -- So a vending business may look different, maybe there is a delivery option, maybe there is a way to reach customers that we haven't thought of in the past nationally and we are trying to figure out in Minnesota, does our priority exist
in locations where, perhaps, the cafeteria or some

of our competition has elected to not service that

building based on numbers. Maybe, perhaps, that

gives us an opportunity to replace a full service

cafeteria with something like a micro market. So

these are just things that we are exploring.

We are also having discussions in

regards to can we expand our businesses into the

private sector? Of course we do not have the

priority, but we do have the talent and the

expertise, so we are always just sort of weighing

those options.

But it's devastating, but at the same
time it gives us an opportunity to perhaps explore

areas that we have not up to this point. So those

are just a few of the ideas that we are sort of

always working on, but you are connect that we do

anticipate some pretty significant loss at the end

of all of this, to put it bluntly. Thank you.

MR. O'CONNOR: Great.

Natasha, would you, if I heard you

correctly, you are looking potentially for some

Council participation in the OKR groups, did I hear

you correctly?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. Yes, we
would love to have councilmembers a part of it.

MR. O'CONNOR: So this is Corbb.

Would you email the group here with the

different -- the five groups and the details?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha,

absolutely, absolutely.

MR. O'CONNOR: Great.

Are there any other questions for

Natasha, Aria and Jon's report?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. Hearing none,

remind me, do we need to approve Natasha's report

or do we just move along?
MS. JERDE: I think you just move along.

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay, just checking.

MS. JERDE: Unless you really want to.

MR. O'CONNOR: No, Ma'am. Very good, well thank you all very much.

We are just slightly behind our schedule, but I have no doubt we will make it up as the night goes on. Our next order of business is the combined State Plan presentation and for that we look to you, Jennifer the first or second since it's not the third.
MS. BEILKE: This is Jennifer Beilke.

I guess we could go by alphabetically, but anyways,

I will get started because this is long.

So the document was sent out and I do apologize that it was not sent out more in advance to allow for more time to read through this long document, but we always end up with a time crunch because as we are now a combined State Plan, we have a portion of this that has to be combined with the rest of the state portions. And we have to submit it so that it can go out for public comment.

And so we always end up in a time crunch and so I apologize for that.
But what I typically do at this meeting is just do a really brief, I'm going to go section by section, I am not going to read through anything, I'm not really going to read through every change either, that would be impossible to do, but I'm gonna give a real brief explanation as to the sections.

In most cases in the sections we just do minor updates. If there is anything that's really major I will let you know, but in any case I am just going to go through and do a real brief update. And if you have specific questions you
certainly can ask me that, those questions.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb. I should have mentioned this earlier, but those of you that are here from the public and the audience, if there are questions as we go through this please definitely feel free to seek the floor.

MS. BEILKE: Definitely.

Okay. So again this is Jennifer Beilke. The first section, Section A, is the input of the State Rehabilitation Council. Again, this section describes any input provided by this Council and then we need to put SSB's response and the explanation, if the Council provided any input
that SSB rejected we'd need to put what our explanation for rejecting that would be.

And again, this section is the last to be completed because we need the input from -- we need to put down the approval of this plan into this section. So we always put that this section will be completed after this council meeting, so that the Council can vote on the approval of the modifications to the combined State Plan.

Section B is the request for waiver of state wideness. There's no changes to this section. The section basically is just if -- it
just relates to if a state is not able to provide

services to its entire, you know, in its entirety
to cover the entire state, you would be requesting
a waiver of providing services to the entire state.
And we are not doing that and we never have, so no
changes to that section.

Section C is cooperative agreements
with agencies not carrying out activities under the
Statewide Workforce Development System. So this
section describes agency, excuse me, this section
describes the interagency cooperation with a
utilization of the services and facilities of
agency and programs that are not carrying out
activities through the Statewide Workforce Development Systems. And we've made minor updates to make this section current. So it relates to federal, state and local agencies and programs. So this is where we talk about our agreements with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, so we talk about the STAR program, state used contracting programs, so basically we mentioned that we have a master contract system. This hasn't changed. So the next, Section D, coordination
with education officials. This section describes SSB's coordination and arrangements with Minnesota Department of Education and how we provide pre-employment transition services and services in general.

There's been several changes and updates to this section, just basically to make it current with how we are providing services.

There's nothing really new in here, but basically we've just updated it to make it current with current policy and with current work.

So I am going to move along to Section E, the cooperative agreements with private
nonprofit organization. This section describes the way in which SSB establishes cooperative agreements with private nonprofit VR service providers. There has only been minor changes to this section so just some minor language changes. For example, we mentioned that we've adopted the terminology of community partner, we talk about our community partner forums, just some minor language updates in here.

Section F is arrangements with cooperative agreements for provision of Supported Employment Services. This section describes SSB's
efforts to provide supported employment to individuals with the most significant disabilities, including youth.

And there were some changes in this section, again just making it current as part of the, for example, the Memorandum of Understanding with Minnesota Department of Human Services we've just updated because in the previous version we talked about how it was just being, you know, was still being developed and now that it has been developed and implemented, so it's just updating the current section.

Section G is coordination with
employers. This section describes how SSB works with employers to identify competitive, integrated employment and career exploration efforts to provide services for VR customers or Vocational Rehab customers and transition services including pre-employment transition services for students and youth with disabilities.

And we've had updates in this section as well. And so they break it out, so it's broken out into VR services, so how we provide those services with Vocational Rehab Services and then by Transition Services, so it's broken into two
different sections. And again, it's just been

updated to current projects and current employers

that we've been working with since the last time we

last submitted our plan.

And then the Section H, interagency

collaboration. This section describes how SSB will

collaborate to develop opportunity for competitive

integrated employment with the state agency

responsible for administering the state Medicaid

plan under Title 19 of the Social Security Act.

The state agency responsible for providing services

for individuals with developmental disabilities and

the state agency responsible for providing mental
14    health services.
15    We've made updates in this section,
16    again it's just bringing it current, bringing forth
17    the changes that have happened in the past year,
18    the past two years since we first submitted our
19    plan.
20    Section I is our comprehensive system
21    of personnel development. This section I can talk
22    a little bit more in detail about. This is a big
23    section. This section talks about -- describes the
24    way that SSB maintains a comprehensive system of
25    personnel development it ensure an adequate supply
of qualified staff. And so really it's a lot of

updating.

So we've made changes so we update the

number of positions that we have, the number of,

you know, VR positions. We have to project the

number of new staff needed over the next five

years, so that gets updated. The number of

students enrolled at institutions of higher

learning that are preparing VR professionals, the

number of students who graduated during the prior

year from those institutions, so that gets updated.

SSB plans for recruitment, preparation and

retention of qualified personnel that gets updated.
Those are the type of things that we are updating.

And Section J, the Statewide Assessment, this is the Needs Assessment. It provides an assessment of the VR needs, the Vocational Rehabilitation Needs of Blind, visually impaired and DeafBlind Minnesotans in regard to specific criteria. We did the -- the Council approved the needs assessment in the previous meeting, so I'm not going to go into that too much, but that was approved in the previous meeting already.

And then we go into annual estimates,
Section K, and that section contains estimates of the number of people eligible in Minnesota for services, it has estimates in the number of people in VR and supported employment programs and by category if we are under Order of Selection and the average cost of services by category. And so you have to update that every, you know, every two years. So we update that to reflect the current projected data.

Okay. And then we get to Section L, State Goals and Priorities. So a little bit later the Customer Satisfaction Goals and Priorities Committee will be present presenting the proposed
goals and priorities and strategies. And so there
are a couple sections here that we will talk about
the goals and priorities and strategies. And so
this section will relate specifically to those
goals and priorities that have not been approved
yet.

So this section, after the Council approves them, they would be inserted, they would
go here. But this section will contain our goals
and priorities, identified to carry out the
vocational rehab and supported employment program.

So after the Council approves them, they will go in
MR. O’CONNOR: This is Corbb, I have a question for you.

MS. BEILKE: Yes, Corbb.

MR. O’CONNOR: Jumping back a section to Section K, the annual estimates. I'm noticing that the expected costs are the same as last year and I'm wondering if we are not anticipating all the inflationary pressure that's on the rest of the economy, if that's not planned to affect the average cost per consumer? They look like they are all the same as last year, if I am reading it right.
MS. BEILKE: Natasha, would you like to take that, or Jon?

MS. JERDE: This is Natasha. So it's interesting because this is an area that is going to be really hard to predict. Our costs are actually down for how much per individual, because a lot of services that are virtual tend to have a lot less cost attached to them or there were a lot of services unavailable because of COVID.

So using the data that we have it's really hard to predict what next year and the year after is going to bring because of this. So
unfortunately we don't know. It's kind of an
unprecedented time, we are basing it on the fact
that our budget for voc rehab services is down a
ton, a ton. We carried forward more than we ever
had, we carried forward almost $4 million into the
next year, which is almost unheard of nowadays.
But with COVID it's happening across the country.
So long bumbling answer to say we kind
of just had to wing that number because we just
have no idea how to predict what the next couple of
years are going to bring.
MR. O'CONNOR: And this is Corbb. And
I'm newer to, like, you mentioned the shortage of
job coaches, do you kind of expect any of that to be related to what job coaches are paid or is it just the nature of the work? Do you have any guess there as to how that might be impacted?

MS. JERDE: This is Tasha. So the shortage of job coaches, one, they are not paid an entirely large amount, I think typically around $15 an hour. We've heard stories where job coaches will job coach people in locations where the individual is making a heck of a lot more money and those places are hiring people so they submit their job application, while they are job coaching, to
work at the company that they are job coaching the

individual for to really hybrid outfield. So yah,

it's a big issue.

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. While we are paused, any other questions?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Natasha.

Back to you, Jennifer.

MS. BEILKE: Sure. And so I want --

this is Jennifer, I just want to make sure that I was clear. What I have put into the document as far as the goals and priorities really is the draft version, it's the same as what's been submitted for
the Council to approve later this evening. And so

if there are any changes we can still make those.

So I just wanted to make that clear.

Okay. So Section M, Order of

Selection. This section describes whether SSB will

implement an Order of Selection, what the

justification for the order is and what the service

and outcome goals are. Again, we have updated this

section to reflect the current and projected data

so we are on a good path. Again we have an Order

of Selection but all categories are open, so we are

able to serve everyone.
Section N again is goals and plans for distribution of Title 6 Funds. This section discusses SSB's plans for Supported Employment Funds, so there's minor changes in this section, just some minor wording changes. Just to update it and make it current.

Section O is the State Strategies. Again this is still basically in draft form because those goals and priorities and strategies will need to be presented and reviewed and approved before this section could be finalized. But again, these would be the strategies that come from those goals and priorities.
And then Section P is the Evaluation and Reports of Progress, VR and Supported Employment Goals. So this section contains a review and progress from the previous goals and priorities and the factors that impeded the achievements of these goals for the VR and Supported Employment Programs.

Additionally the VR programs performance on the performance accountability indicators under Section 116 of WIOA are reported as how the funds are reserved for innovation and expansion were utilized. So if this sounds
familiar or it kind of sounds like the VR Effectiveness report it is pretty similar, yes.

So again, we've updated this section, it shows the review of those -- progress on those previous goals and priorities, factors that impeded the achievement and included those performance indicators and updated the section on innovation and expansion.

The last little section is just Q which is on quality, scope and extent of supported employment and there were just some very minor wording changes in that section.

That is it. Are there questions?
MR. O'CONNOR: All right. Hearing no questions on the report --

MS. OIEN: This is Kristen.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, Kristen.

MS. OIEN: Hi. I do have a question on Section D, not having seen this prior to a couple hours ago, there are several references to MDE Special Education and Career College Success Divisions and I'm wondering if you have specific folks that are working on that? Like is Lindsey Horowitz? Do you have approval from these folks
that all this is going to be happening?

MS. BEILKE: Let's see. Can you tell me -- this is Jennifer.

MS. OIEN: Coordination with educational officials, lots of references from page 6, 7, 8, 9.

MS. BEILKE: I was just wondering if you could tell me which section or more specifically which part? What it's referencing is the first part is referencing the agreement that we have and then under 1 references the agreement and then 2a represents the consultation and technical assistance under is it 2a?
MS. OIEN: Yes.

MS. BEILKE: Okay. We should probably check in with Sheila. I would need to check with Sheila on that to give you a more specific answer.

MS. OIEN: Okay. I just want to make sure, not having seen it before.

MS. BEILKE: Definitely, yah, we can certainly --

MS. OIEN: Yah, there are just a couple of edits that should be made, so should I just connect with you Jennifer?

MS. BEILKE: Well, we need to -- can
you tell me now real quick?

MS. OIEN: Page 7 under the Section B, the fifth bullet it says including instruction in person-centered planning. I think you should say person-centered practices, just because planning is a very unique and trademarked -- person-centered planning is a very unique and trademarked process and unless that's what you are planning on doing. But person-centered practices is a more an umbrella term that focuses on person centered like term that focuses on person centered. That's what you are planning on doing. But person-centered practices is a more an umbrella sort of a trademarked -- person-centered planning person-centered practices, just because planning is person-centered planning. I think you should say person-centered practices?
agree completely with Kristen, it should be

person-centered practices because I don't think

we're specifically prescribing to that PCP model

per se, so.

MR. O'CONNOR: Were there other

changes, Kristen, this is Corbb?

MS. OIEN: Not in my first rough

review, nope.

MS. BEILKE: This is Jennifer, if I

may. How this works is the Council does approve

the combined State Plan, however, there are -- I

mean what has happened is I have had to submit our
portion to the state as of the 1st and it goes --

well as of -- I have to look and see, I can't remember. But it was getting posted by the state,

the entire state, Minnesota State Plan is being posted for 30 days of public feedback and at the end of that 30 days we still can make changes.

So if there are minor changes like that we can still make those changes and I feel comfortable making those type of changes even after the Council has approved the State Plan because as long as there they are not making major changes,

you know, if we are making minor corrections it's okay.
MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl.

MR. HEINL: Yah, are we approving something that's already been submitted for public comment? That should have been approved prior to it posted to public comment?

MS. BEILKE: This is Jennifer. So the plan, our portion of the State Plan gets submitted to Minnesota for public comment, a 30 day period of public comment.

MR. HEINL: Is that before or after this Council approves it?
MS. BEILKE: I believe it's on the 4th, I think it's tomorrow that it's going to be posted for public comment.

MR. HEINL: I thought you said it was already up there?

MS. BEILKE: I don't know, I have to look and see what they said. They wanted it and then two days later they were going to post it. So they gave us a date to submit and then two days later it was going to be posted.

MR. HEINL: Yah, well, I don't want to approve something that's already been posted so how do we find out?
MS. JERDE: This is Tasha.

MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Tasha.

MS. JERDE: So even though it's up for public comment it's not actually finalized. And there is actually sections in there that talks about State Rehab Council approval. What we have put in those sections is that everything is pending State Rehab Council approval because our meeting was tonight.

So you can still approve and there is still options to modify it, it's not actually officially submitted to the Feds until March or
April. So even though it's out for public comment we have made a stipulation that the Rehab Council has not approved it yet and that all things are pending approval.

MR. HEINL: So if you have a 30 day period for comments, you are commenting on something that may change. How do you testify something that could be changed to write a comment on?

MR. O'CONNOR: So this is Corbb. Tom, I want to try to clarify your question here. Is your concern as I am hearing it is that we are voting on a document that after public comment may
be changed, but we are not voting on something that

is the final version of it for the Feds; am I

hearing your concern?

MR. HEINL: Well, I am totally

confused on this. Normal procedure would be that

the Council would approve it and then it would be

go to public comment and it would come back to the

Council for modification if there was modification

to be done.

This sounds like the public is not

necessarily commenting on any kind of final

document or submitted document, it sounds like it's
being submitted because of the fact that the

Council hasn't voted on it yet, they want to get it

up there before the Council votes.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb. As I've

understood what's been shared, the document is --

we are not anticipating changes this evening and

that's why it is going to go for public comment

tomorrow. Are there significant changes that you

would like to make before then, Tom?

MR. HEINL: No, there is no changes.

I would just like to know what I am voting on, if I

am voting on -- is it going to come back through

the Council again after the public comment period
and after changes may be made?

MS. BEILKE: No, that public comment period, that is because this combined State Plan there are like 13 other programs that have a part of a combined State Plan, so that is why it has to have a public comment period.

MR. HEINL: So the public --

MR. O'CONNOR: Hang on, hang on a second. If you have would, Tom, hang on. Go ahead, Jennifer.

MS. BEILKE: That public comment period really isn't just for us, I mean, that's for
the entire combined State Plan of which we are just one component of.

MR. HEINL: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. BEILKE: Yah. And to be honest, I mean not many of the people of the public actually read the entire combined State Plan which is about 300 some pages because it is the, you know, there's about 13 other programs in this combined state plan.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb. So just to confirm Tom's question, we will vote on it this evening, it will get put into, with several other state documents, to become a combined State Plan,
it will go for public comment. If changes are made after that will the Council vote on it again?

MS. BEILKE: No.

MR. O'CONNOR: And go ahead, Tom.

MR. HEINL: Well, the thing that's problematic here is the fact that if I read SSB's part of this plan and I had a comment on it, it's my understanding that you justified those comments in your rebuttal, so to speak, and then, you know, what's to say you don't change it and we've already voted on something different than that?

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.
MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Jeff.

MR. THOMPSON: I think the intent of this is this passes through us so we can give our suggestions and have at it a little bit and make some changes, you know, or suggestions that, you know, it just doesn't bypass us, it comes through us. We give if a nod and then it keeps on -- I think it's a working document all the way to the Feds. That's my opinion. So I'm okay with it.

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy.

MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Judy.

MS. SANDERS: I'm thinking that I don't know that there is anything in this plan
that's terribly controversial, if I missed it. If

we voted to submit this plan tonight and then

something happens within the comment period that

sparks a lot of changed thought, at best we could

say we would like to redo some of this and see what

happens.

At worst if we took up the cause that

somebody initiated, we could write a protest thing,

that would be fun. You know, I mean I think there

would be ways for us to express displeasure if

that's what happens.

MR. HEINL: Well, I have one remark.
MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Tom, one last comment and then we will move on.

MR. HEINL: Yah, one last comment and then we will move on. If we don't know a lot of change we certainly can't protest change.

MR. O'CONNOR: I hear your concerns, Tom.

Are we --

MS. BEILKE: This is Jennifer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, ma'am.

MS. BEILKE: May I just say real quick, you know if there were changes we certainly could just -- we could do a send it out for a vote
if we wanted to. You know, if there were changes

that were suggested, if everyone wanted to, you

know, put it to a vote you certainly could. I
don't know if we can do email vote or if you wanted
to do a quick meeting, but we certainly could if
people would prefer that.

MR. O'CONNOR: So why don't we do
this, let's go ahead and move to a vote on this
with the one condition, as I understand it,
Jennifer, the goals and priorities piece it may
change in this meeting and if so it would just
change inside this document.
MS. BEILKE: That's correct.

MR. O'CONNOR: Do we have such a motion to move to a vote?

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, so moved.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, second it.

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. Let's make it happen.

Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Frank Eller.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: I'm assuming Jessica Fordyce is till not with us.
MR. HEINL: I abstain.

MR. O'CONNOR: Tom Heinl abstains.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria, am I saying your name correctly?

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay, thank you. If I've butchered anyone else's, please let me know.

DEBORAH LEUCHOVIOUS.

MS. LEUCHOVIOUS: Deborah Leuchovius,
yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: Michael O’Day.


MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

MR. O’CONNOR: And Corbb O’Connor,
yes. With one abstention the motion passes. Thank you very much.

Hey, I don't know about you but I am suggesting that we take maybe a ten minute break.

We will reconvene at 7:00 o'clock sharp.

MS. KUSZ: Hey, Corbb, this is Susan.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, Susan.

MS. KUSZ: Before you go on break,

Jessica Fordyce is on the call but she just can't seem to get unmuted for some reason. We tried troubleshooting that. I think she may go out and come back in. But just so you are aware, she is
not a voting member.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you. I thought that was odd, but I thought okay.

MS. KUSZ: No, she is a staff person.

She does sit on the Council and has a voice, but she just doesn't vote.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much.

MS. KUSZ: So she has been on the call, so just --

MR. O'CONNOR: And there were folks that were stuck in the waiting room, Susan, so if we could just disable that, Susan.

MS. KUSZ: No, it was just one person
and they went out and came back in and so that's how it goes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thanks. We will see you at 7:00.

(Break taken from 6:50 to 7:00 p.m.)

MR. O'CONNOR: All right, it's 7:00 o'clock, welcome back. And I am going to turn now, I keep forgetting, I apologize, this is Corbb, I am going to turn things over to Jeff Thompson now for a review of our Customer Satisfaction and Goals & Priorities.

MR. THOMPSON: Thanks, Corbb. The
Goals & Priorities for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 was submitted to us as a committee and thank you Jon Benson and the team at SSB for all the hard work. And Jennifer Beilke for bridging it over to us as a committee and helping us out on the committee, and the committee, Kristina, Steve and Jennifer Dunnam -- are you the second or the first -- for all their hard work on it and the depth of knowledge in everything in going through this.

The document was sent out and I think the best way to go through is just to read through it and ask questions after each one. So Jennifer
Dunnam, thank you for reading this first one,
priority.

MS. DUNNAM: Sure. And just to add
one sentence -- am I coming through okay?

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, ma'am.

MS. DUNNAM: Okay. Just to add one
sentence in support of what Jeff said when we got
the draft for this, there was conversation with the
committee and SSB and some changes were made as a
result of that. So good to be putting that forward
as a joint effort as we are supposed to be doing.

So I will do the first priority, which
is not ranked in priority order, but it's first on
the list. And it is -- the priority is competitive
and integrated employment and it has three
strategies underneath it. And each of the
strategies have several points underneath them.
This is the longest one so I will be doing about
half of our document here, but it's not too long,
we will keep it interesting.

So under this competitive integrated
employment area of focus or priority the first
strategy is implement a model for coordinating
employer services with DEED Workforce Innovation
and Opportunity Act partners including, and the
partners list includes: Title I, adult dislocated workers youth, Title III, job seeker services, Title IV vocational rehabilitation services, so those are those.

And then SSB is working with DEED partners and stakeholders to develop a client relationship management tool currently partners are determining the cost to use Minnesota IT for consulting and services and what funding they can commit.

Once this is finalized the planning process will begin by identifying partner
businesses and customer needs and how to assemble these into a cohesive product. So that's the first basic point under the strategy.

The next one is monitor the employer one stop online virtual hub, representing all partners and available services and determine any modifications and adjustments needing to ensure it's effectiveness.

The next point: Monitor the E1MN section of the disability hub website for DEED outreach and marketing and determine any modifications and adjustments needed to ensure it's effectiveness. That's the end of the first of the
The second strategy is implement ongoing training, tracking and oversight of measurable skills games, MSG that Natasha was talking about earlier, and credential attainment for students who reached negotiated targets.

So points under this strategy are monitor staff tracking and their customers and input of appropriate documentation by in depth review of staff input and customer MSGs and credentials between enrollment and disenrollment.

Next point is ensure accuracy in
reporting and validity of the MSGs and credentials claimed. Then train staff as needed regarding data fixes as necessary for these measures. Thus ends the second strategy.

The third one: In coordination with the Advisory Task Force on state employment and retention of employees with disabilities, develop and implement a method for hiring and retention of Blind, visually impaired and DeafBlind customers into state government, including using Connect 700 and supported work programs.

First point under that one: Monitor the recommendation documented -- sorry, start
again. Monitor the recommendation document submitted by the Advisory Task Force to the legislative subcommittee. The recommendations included items and proposed statutory changes that will specifically support the hiring and retention of Blind, visually impaired and DeafBlind customers, including a requirement for all technology and digital content to be accessible and provided in a timely manner, job posting language to be nondiscriminatory, including not requiring a driver's license when one is not actually needed, hiring managers are made aware of the state
1 accommodation fund, reasonable accommodations are
2 provided to allow full participation, State
3 Services for the Blind and VR Services must be
4 consulted when it comes to any updates or changes
5 to the Connect 700 policy.
6 Training of staff. Uninclusive
7 environments, digital accessibilities standards and
8 the Americans with Disabilities Act. State
9 Services for the Blind will continue to work with
10 Minnesota Management & Budget to ensure these
11 recommendations are carried out. That is the end
12 of the first priority. Back to you, Jeff or
13 however we are doing it. If people have questions.
MR. O'CONNOR: Questions?

MS. O'CONNOR: Briley O'Connor.

MR. O'CONNOR: Briley.

MS. O'CONNOR: A question about the accessibility piece for tech that state employees would need to use. Is there language in there about WCAG conformance, just to be clear about what we mean when we say accessibility?

MS. DUNNAM: I will start and if somebody wants to chime in and correct and refine.

The document that was submitted to the legislature does contain that type of language, as I recall.
from reading it some time ago.

MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

MR. VAN ACKER: This is Kyle Van Acker. I was just curious, how often is the Connect 700 program reviewed and how often are updates and changes put forward to either VRS or SSB?

MS. DUNNAM: I will leave that one to someone that has better info than I do.

MS. JERDE: This is Tasha.

MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead, Natasha.

MS. JERDE: And I see Trevor went on camera and he actually may be very fluent in this.
As of right now VRS and SSB haven't been -- I will
turn it to Trevor, I have a crying kid.

MR. O'CONNOR: So are the things of
working from home, Natasha, and we appreciate you
being here through all of that.

Go ahead, Trevor.

MR. TURNER: Yah, this is Trevor
speaking and I will take over for Natasha a little
bit.

The Minnesota Council on Disabilities
is -- our number one priority for this legislative
session is the Connect 700 form, bill. We already
had the language done and we are going to be submitting it to the Houses -- oh, I'm sorry, we have a hearing for it in the House on Thursday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. And the House State Gov Committee, the State Government Committee.

So the series of changes include changes to the Connect 700 program, it's not just Connect 700, it also has other provisions that improve the hiring and retention of people with disabilities and including consulting with SSB and VRS for MMB to consult with VRS and SSB on changes and things like that too.

So we do have a bill so I would
encourage you all to check out that hearing on

Thursday, February 10, 8:30 in the morning. We

will be testifying and, you know, hopefully pushing

forward. I am feeling pretty confident about the

success of this bill (barking), I apologize, now my

dog is causing problems, but I'm feeling pretty

confident about the success of this bill to pass

this session, but it does address a lot of these

priorities that were just brought up. And so I

wanted to make sure that you knew about the bill

House File 2017 is the bill, so you can look it up

on the website and kind of see what it does
But there is four main components to it, one is, you know, improving and streamlining the Connect 700 program. The other one is creating a data collection infrastructure so that we have more data about employees with disabilities in the state. Another one is improving the training of hiring managers and ADA coordinators and then standardizing the role of the ADA coordinator across all state agencies. So those are like the four main components of the bill that is going to be heard on Thursday.
MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Trevor.

MR. TURNER: If you have any questions please ask away.

MR. VAN ACKER: This is Kyle, thank you, I appreciate that, the context. So with this document right here is this a new process or has proposed changes come through this Council and VRS in the past?

MS. JERDE: This is Tasha.

MR. VAN ACKER: Yes, ma'am.

MS. JERDE: So Connect 700 itself has been around for a few years now. The Legislative
Task Force was formed because there were still not only issues with Connect 700, but around just retention of people with disabilities. And that Legislative Task Force, which I was one of the representatives on, concluded its work about a year ago January, or maybe even two, I have no sense of time.

So Connect 700 is still active MMB, Minnesota Management & Budget has been making some changes and improvements to the program. VRS and SSB hasn't really been consulted recently, though we have had some meetings with Minnesota Management & Budget just to talk about their data and some of
the concerns that we are still seeing.

MR. VAN ACKER: All right.

MR. O'CONNOR: Back to you, Jeff and Jennifer.

MR. THOMPSON: All right. Priority 2, Steve Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: All right. Can I be heard?

MR. O'CONNOR: You can.

MR. JACOBSON: Okay. Priority 2 has two strategies. So the priority is as follows:

Internal controls and quality assurance is the
title and the strategy A, enhance the case review process to allow for realtime results that can be put in SharePoint and allow for trends and patterns that can shape training and accountability and policy process. And then there's a couple -- the bullet point under that is case reviews will be conducted by the quality assurance specialist.

Strategy B, create a data dashboard to allow for realtime reporting of performance and demographics. The bullet point there is we will be continuing to work on developing the data dashboard by reviewing existing tools that may be available to meet this need, compared to building our own,
meaning our own tool. The expectation is that this
will be completed well within the year. And that's
priority 2.

And I will just say this does relate
back to some of what was in Natasha's report about
trying to track demographics and some of these
other things more quickly.

MR. O'CONNOR: Questions for the
committee?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. Moving onto
Priority 3.
MR. THOMPSON: Kristina Petronko.

MS. PETRONKO: Yes, thank you, Jeff.

this is Kristina. So Priority 3 is reaching underrepresented populations. There is one strategy under this priority, Strategy A is to increase minority applicants for vocational rehab services who would otherwise not have applied because of statewide outreach with the minority communities. So there are two bullet points. The first bullet point, use applicant data on race, ethnicity, gender and religion to measure against closure rates to determine if there are trends and
unsuccessful closures among a particular protected class.

Second bullet point, once measures are established, an action plan will be developed to identify what gaps exist and how to reduce them.

That is the end of Priority 3.

MR. O'CONNOR: Questions for the committee?

(No response.)


MR. THOMPSON: And that goes to
Jennifer.

MS. DUNNAM: The fourth, which is the second to last of the priorities, is transition and pre-employment transition services, Pre-ETS. One strategy, several points. Strategy, develop a longitudinal study in all youth ages 25 and younger, case closures. Identify factors that contribute to successful or unsuccessful closures.

First point, the transition subcommittee of the SRC-B has requested the data on case closures specifically for students and youth 25 and under with successful and unsuccessful closures.
Next point. When the data is received the transition subcommittee will evaluate to identify factors that contribute to successful or unsuccessful outcomes. Based on the factors, we will begin to develop strategies to address how better to ensure successful outcomes. End of Priority 4.

MS. PETRONKO: This is Kristina.

MR. O'CONNOR: Go ahead.

MS. PETRONKO: I was going to pick up with Priority 5 so please let's have questions first.
MR. O’CONNOR: Are there any questions on Priority 4? Other than one missing s that we found in reading it.

All right. Let's go to number 5.

MS. PETRONKO: This is Kristina Petronko. So Priority 5 is staff training and development. There are two different strategies. The first strategy is A, provide a comprehensive and structured training curriculum for new employee onboarding and ongoing staff training by the designated trainer.

And then bullet point under A, the designated trainer is developing the comprehensive
and structured training curriculum for new employee
onboarding and ongoing staff training.

Expected outcomes are: And there are three bullets. First, onboarding and training packages specific to each role that make up the Workforce Development Unit, which is the abbreviation WDU. Second bullet, an annual training and development schedule for WDU as a whole and for specific units, roles and functions. Bullet three, acquiring data about training effectiveness and adjusting as needed, post-strategy A.
Strategy B is to increase the level of awareness of the timely communication with customers in response to customer comments on the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

And then there are two bullets under this strategy. The first bullet is the Customer Outcomes and Goals & Priorities Committee, together with SSB staff, will monitor the frequency of comments on subsequent surveys. Second bullet, SSB staff will investigate other internal controls that can be useful in identifying any communication timeliness problems.
And that is the end of Priority 5.

MR. O'CONNOR: Any comments to close out the report? Or anyone on the committee?

MR. THOMPSON: Once again I just want to thank everyone for the hard work that they put into this.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb. One quick question on 5A. When we say staff training and employee training, we are talking about those who work for SSB or work out of SSB; is that correct?

MS. PETRONKO: This is Kristina.
That's my understanding.

MR. O'CONNOR: Any questions on the document as a whole?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. I don't believe that -- does this need a vote? Does not appear to be, but I want it double check.

MS. DUNNAM: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: I think it does, yah.

All right, I thought it did. Is there such a motion for us to vote on said report?

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: So moved, Deborah Leuchovius.
MR. STRUNK: So moved.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

And a second from?

MR. STRUNK: Ryan.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan beat you by seconds. All right, let's have a vote.

Daniel Ashman.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.
MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Catalina Martinez.

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Michael O'Day.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Judy Sanders. Judy Sanders may be muted, we'll come back to her.

Ryan Strunk.
MR. STRUNK: Yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

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

Judy Sanders are you back?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: All right. Motion carries.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: The motion still carries. Wonderful.
MR. SANDERS: This is Judy. I wasn't done muting like I thought. But I wanted to compliment the way this committee presented its report, I have never seen it so uniquely done and it was very refreshing, everybody participating.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O'CONNOR: Jeff Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I would have to say we had to exclude dancing, dancers that Jennifer Dunnam suggested, but it went good.

MS. SANDERS: Well, that would have added a piece, you know.

MR. O'CONNOR: This is Corbb, when we
are back in person I would appreciate a motion to

ensure that there are dancers. Thank you very

much.

And a note on the committees that are
doing this great work, I would appreciate an invite
to your committee meetings as you are working on
these things going forward. I don't know that I
will be able to attend them all, but definitely
would like to drop in where I am able.

The next up is a report from our

Annual Work Plan Task Force and I am blanking on

who the chair was at the moment.
MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson.

MR. O'CONNOR: I thought it was you, all right, good. Go ahead, Jeff.

Michael, I want to say caveman, and Ryan. We got the document, went through and updated all the dates. What the working document is, the work plan is, it sets the timeline for the Council and that's how we set the agenda by looking at what needs to be done when and all that.

So going through the previous document that we had the year before, we updated all the dates. And one main note that was suggested is
that everything funnels down to December, let's say

it's the first Thursday in December, but a lot of

the stuff that gets compiled right there with the

Annual Report and the VR effectiveness, it always

seems, at least the last two years it has come down

to we had to schedule an extra meeting to get

things approved.

So we didn't change any of that, but

we just wanted to make a note for the record that

it's almost built in to not succeed to have

everything done by the meeting in December unless

we move that meeting further back. Because they
say it has to be in by December 28, but a lot of
the reports from the committees and that stuff
don't have to be in until November 30, so it's a
squeeze.

But other than that we updated
everything and we didn't see anything wrong with
the document, we just gave us all fresh dates.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Jeff.

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy, I move we
accept the Work Plan as presented.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Judy. Do we
have a second?

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, second.
MR. O’CONNOR: Daniel, seconds.

Susan, if I remember correctly, you mentioned the other day you thought we had addressed that concern that Jeff just raised with something that was listed for the October meeting, am I remembering correctly, you had a thought there?

MS. KUSZ: I think my suggestion was to just make sure that it gets mentioned in the October meeting.

MR. O’CONNOR: That the deadline was going to be quickly approaching? This is Corbb.
MS. KUSZ: Yes. The deadline actually says something about November and so it really should be in the October meeting. I don't really know if there is anything we can do to move it up, so that was just my one observation.

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

Okay. Barring no other person seeking the floor in the next three seconds, we will move to a vote. And we will start with --

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, yes.
MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Mohamed.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.
MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

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

Hurray, thank you group. Gave us work to do the rest of the year.

The next item on our agenda is the report from our New Member Orientation Information Task Force. The group met earlier this week and we just made a couple of suggestions. One around the -- and Susan has helped us connect with the folks in IT services to make those minor adjustments.

So one of them is on that New Member Orientation part of the website, there's just -- I
couldn't help it, I'm the accessibility guy. There

was a slight issue with links versus buttons, we've

got that hopefully underway.

And then there was some talk do we

have the pages broken out in a way that right now

they are kind of expanding sections of one page.

And there were a couple sections that were

rather lengthy, there was talk of shortening those

down and breaking them down further. At the

suggestion of IT services we don't want to go about

expanding sections within expanding sections, that

sounds like a nightmare for everybody. So they are
1 working on some potential solutions for that and as

2 well making this page and the main SRC-B page

3 consistent in the way that the navigation is

4 organized.

5 Those were the major take-aways from

6 the New Member Orientation, other than a thank you

7 to the group that did such a fine job of it last

8 year.

9 I lied, one last thing. The

10 instructions for setting up a Swift account, Susan

11 and I are going to be looking at those early next

12 week. And when I say early I mean a 6:00 a.m.

13 meeting. So we are going to look at that together
and see if there are some ways that we can streamline those, especially make them more specific screen reader user instructions so that that system is a little bit easier for new members of the Council to get their Swift accounts set up through which they will be paid for the per diems and such that the Council has.

Task force, Tom Heinl and Susan, you were on the call, have I missed anything? And are there questions for us?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Hearing none, I am
wondering if we would like to move to a vote on
this, Tom?

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, so moved.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, second.

MR. O'CONOOR: Mohamed Mohamed
seconds, thank you.

Kristina Petronko, you are on deck for
a report after we vote starting with --

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.

MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.

MS. LAFRINIERE: Yes.
MS. LEUCHOVIOUS: Deborah Leuchovius,

yes.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Corbb O'Connor, yes. We
did it, we did it, let's see if we can do it again
later on in the evening, I might have jinxed us.

Now for the Annual Report of the Client Assistance Program I turn things to Kristina Petronko. Apologies for the spelling error on the agenda.

MS. PETRONKO: No problem at all.

Thanks, Corbb.

This is Kristina Petronko and I'm here to give the Annual Cap Report. And as you saw from the Work Plan, this is something I do every year so I apologize to those of you who have heard it before, I always try to vary it a little bit,

but I also know that there are new people on the
Council who may not be familiar with the Client Assistance Project or the Minnesota Disability Law Center. So I want to also present to you all and let you know about us.

So I will go through some of the material that I sent out that Susan sent around and then happy to open it up for questions.

So the first thing I always kind of like to answer is what is the Client Assistance Project and who are we. The Client Assistance Project is a part of the Minnesota Disability Law Center, which is also then a statewide part of Mid
Minnesota Legal Aid. And the role of the Client Assistance Project is to help people who are getting services from SSB from VR that are having problems, encountering problems with those services.

And so we are independent of VR and SSB, we are independent of the state, we are a nonprofit law firm that represents clients. And the Minnesota Disability Law Center part specifically represents clients with disabilities throughout Minnesota, any type of disability and for free.

So within the Client Assistance
Project we are mainly working on cases where there
is a consumer of SSB that is having problems with
their SSB services, with their SSB counselors.

They could also be having problems with an
employer, so they could be getting SSB services and
then they are having problems with their employer
and so we can help in those situations. We can
also help if people are having problems with one of
the Centers for Independent Living.

And this is part of the employment
work that we do at the Minnesota Disability Law
Center. We also have another grant with a very
long name, the Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security, the PABS Grant.

And as part of that grant we are able to also help deal with issues with VR consumers, but also to help people that are getting Social Security Disability benefits and have a work barrier.

So when I do my CAP presentation I am really talking a little bit about both projects, because both of them are involved in our employment work at the Disability Law Center and we handle cases related to SSB under both grants. So I like to mention them.

In the materials I sent out you will
see the other type of work that we do under the

grants, so I won't read through those for you now.

Some of it includes a little bit of information we
can provide about work incentives for Social
Security beneficiaries. As Kyle probably knows,
the Goodwill Eater seals has a lot more information
about that with the Work Incentives Connection
Program, but we do a little bit of that too.

So we also work on policy issues so,
you know, I am on the State Rehab Council for the
Blind. My colleague, Ann Robertson, is on the
State Rehab Council and we do policy work on
employment-related issues before the legislature,

before state agencies and do community presentations across the state, letting people know about their rights and letting people know what their options are. We partner with different organizations, including like with Deborah at PACER and different organizations.

So what did we do in the last year?

You are probably wondering. I am going to talk about fiscal year 2021 which is, you know, confusingly a different year than any of SSB's, well some of SSB's years. So our fiscal year goes from October 1 until September 30.
And so for the year that ended on September 30, 2021 we handled about 90 cases under CAP and PABS, only a small number of them were related to problems with SSB. So I will tell you a little bit about those cases.

There are problems with SSB and then I am going to tell you a little bit about cases where the client was a SSB consumer, but was having problems with someone else and how we helped in those situations. So you can kind of get the breath of some of what we do.

So if there is a problem with someone
who is getting SSB services, and again, it's usually workforce development VR issues, it can be a range of things. It can be advice and advice about someone's rights for vocational rehab, particularly sometimes even just advice behind the scenes. Somebody wants to know, you know, this is what my counselor said, is this right? You know, often people don't always want the lawyer to call counselor, they are worried that, you know, if a lawyer or a legal advocate calls the counselor there is going to be a problem, but they want to know what their rights and options are.
So we had a case that we closed in fiscal year '21 that involved a transition-age youth who had previously been found by the agency unable to work, had moved to sheltered work, didn't find that fulfilling, felt like they could do more than that. Came back to SSB, said I think I can work in the community, I really want to do competitive integrated employment. And from the counselor that they were applying with they received some push back.

And so we provided kind of education behind the scenes saying, you know, I agree with
you young person, I think you should be able to try
this and here are some tools that you can use to
advocate for yourself with your counselor and if
that doesn't work let us know and we can step in.
But that person really wanted to handle it on their
own and was able to be successful. When the case
was closed was getting SSB services and was on
their way to hopefully a positive employment
outcome in getting competitive integrated
employment.

At times it also includes us getting
involved in negotiating with SSB on the client's
behalf for services that, you know, the client
feels like they need and we think that under the
law they are entitled to. And for the most part we
are able to reach resolution with SSB and with, you
know, phone calls, meetings, discussion and
negotiation.

In mediation and having an impartial
hearing are always options, but in fiscal year '21
we did not have to pursue those advocacy strategies
because we were able to resolve things at the
negotiation level. So that's some cases with SSB
where SSB was the person that we were kind of
advocating on behalf of the client with.
Then there are cases where we are providing services to -- providing legal services to SSB consumers to help them with their job goal.

But, you know, the person that we are negotiating with is not SSB themselves.

So we had an SSB consumer who, to be able to reach their long-term job goal, needed a name change and actually ran into a problem with the court system that was not allowing them to do the name change for free. They were saying that they would have to pay the filing fee to file for a name change. And the client met the requirements to be able to file for free because of their
And so we were able to intervene with the judge and write a letter on their behalf explaining to the judge -- reminding the judge, you never explain to a judge, you just remind them what the law is. And we reminded them that the client was eligible for services, or sorry, was eligible for the filing fee to be waived. And the filing fee was waived and they were able to be successful with the name change and then move on to help their job goal.

We also had a client who was getting income.
SSB services, but also had a CADI waiver, what is it, community access for disability inclusion waiver through their county, which is part of a Medicaid Home & Community Based Waiver Services Program, for those people that aren't familiar with waivers. It provides services for someone who without those services wouldn't be able to continue to live independently in the community. And this client is in the process of getting SSB services to work, but while he is doing that he needs services to live independently and during COVID he was having a lot of difficulty getting enough PCA hours, because PCAs, there's
been both the workforce shortage and then with COVID restrictions and how often people were coming out.

And so he didn't have any assistive technology to help him read his mail, he needed help with that. And so we were able to advocate with his county case manager to get him a scanner which then combined with the technology that was provided by SSB for his job search allowed him to be more independent and be able to read his mail and not be reliant on PCAs who were not always coming.
And that had also created problems with, like, healthcare and other services because he was getting letters that he couldn't read for weeks and it was making -- which was making it difficult for him to live independently.

So those are cases where again, SSB is not on the other side of what we are trying to resolve, but SSB is involved and often counselors are referring clients to us for help so we can try to help deal with issues that may be a barrier. So those are some case issues.

We can also provide what we call technical assistance. So to SSB counselors, to
support service staff in the world, like if people have questions about what someone's rights are particularly under VR or rights for someone who is a Social Security beneficiary and is trying to work, we can provide technical assistance to you even if you are not the client, because we want to educate people to help others.

And I guess the only other thing or maybe two other things I will mention is that, one, as I mentioned, we do community presentations to do outreach both about our services, but about what people's rights are. We did about 24 presentations
in the fiscal year I mentioned, reaching almost
1,400 people.

And so if you are part of any organizations or community groups that you think it would be helpful for people to know more about their legal rights, we are happy to come out and do that, the presentations are free, so feel free to contact me.

And then something that I think I updated you on last year and that we partner with Jeff Thompson on is we have a project called Into Adulthood to try to reach transition age youth, 14 to 24. You know, there's a time in people's lives
when they are often moving from kind of from one category of services to another category and there's a lot of confusion about what options are available out there.

So we put together a guide which we thought, you know, was going to be maybe ten pages to start and I think it's almost 50 now. There is a link on the page that I gave you to our website, so we have the guide, it's in various different formats and translated into multiple languages, but we've also created, you know, we realized that you don't reach 14 to 24 year olds with a 48 page
guide, and so we created some videos, it will be
interesting to see what SSB's videos are like and
if we can take a cue from them. But we created
some videos and with Jeff, have some podcast
episodes for Blind abilities talking about youth
with disabilities and various issues, so related to
voting rights, related to VR services and, you
know, maybe issues with having VR agencies funding
post-secondary education.

We have a one on a college student
right now who has intellectual disabilities and her
suggestions on kind of how to organize your life to
get to college and what to do once you are in
college. And we have podcasts on racial
disparities and segregation in school discipline
for students of color.

So I would encourage you to check out
our website and our YouTube channel with those and
the Blind Abilities podcast episodes that Jeff so
kindly offered to help us with.

So with that I will just give you our
intake number in case there is anyone in your life
that needs it. It's 1-800-292-4150 and I'm happy
to answer any questions now or offline.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much,
Kristina. Are there questions?

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy.

MR. STRUNK: This is Ryan.

MR. O’CONNOR: Let’s do Judy first.

MS SANDERS: Okay. Kristina, when you were talking about the person who needed to read things and then he got the technology to do it, you mentioned a PCA. Was the PCA for a different purpose or are we talking about someone who was Blind or visually impaired?

MS. PETRONKO: So talking about someone who is Blind and also has other disabilities.
MS. SANDERS: Okay. So it was the other disabilities where the PCA was involved I'm guessing?

MS. PETRONKO: The PCA was involved for a number of different services, yes, including their other disabilities.

MS. SANDERS: Okay. Good, thank you.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Judy.

Ryan.

MR. STRUNK: This is not directly to Kristina, but there was just a massive wall of text that was just posted to the chat and I'm not
certain what that was in reference to, but I'm not able to read that and also pay attention to the meeting, so.

MS. KUSZ: This is Susan, I can make a comment. We have a visitor that is asking about making some sort of kind of presentation during public comment. I was just going to respond to this and let them know that, you know, we do have a very limited amount of time for public comment. We are not even through all of our reports yet for this meeting and if there is something that's lengthy that needs to be talked about, this needs to be scheduled ahead of time. That would be my
take on this. Of course, I'm just the staff liaison, so.

MR. O'CONNOR: Ryan, did you have a thought?

I appreciate it Susan.

MR. STRUNK: No, I'm just trying to figure out what that was, because it is just a massive chunk of text, so I was trying to figure out if it was germane to this, but I couldn't tell.

MR. O'CONNOR: It is not germane to this agenda item.

MR STRUNK: Okay.
MR. O'CONNOR: The one question from the chat for you, Kristina, is about when the report will be made accessible to those using screen readers. I will throw in my own two cents that I have no issue reading your word document. Would you like to comment on that question?

MS. PETRONKO: No, I mean, I had hoped that it was accessible, but if you are having issues accessing the program I would suggest talking to Susan about getting access to it.

MR. O'CONNOR: Sounds great. Thank you very much, Kristina.

Are there other questions for Kristina
and the Client Assistance Project?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Very well. Then we shall move into our, thank you Kristina, we will move into our committee reports. And the first of which is from our representative on the State Rehabilitation Counsel, which I believe Kyle, is that you?

MR SADEK: I believe it's me, Tyler Sadek. I just want to make sure that that's right.

MR. VAN ACKER: Yes, it's right. Go ahead.
MR. SADOFF: So hello everybody, this

is Tyler Sadek, I am the new chair on the SRC. I

am going to keep this brief, just give a couple

updates on what we talked about in our last meeting

as well as some of the things that I think based on

what I read from the materials that got sent out

and then what's been talked about tonight, things

that I think kind of overlap or seem to be a shared

interest of ours, the two SRC groups.

So first I wanted to mention that we,

in the last week, received a flurry of appointments

so a lot of those were reappointments, which was

great, but we did have two new representatives for
business, industry and labor, as well as a new VR counselor on the committee as well, on the Council.

And we are still waiting on a new CRP appointment, as well as an appointment from the Governor's Workforce Development Board. We are hoping to have those sometime in the next month, but as that changes I will make sure to keep people updated.

I know today it was discussed your priority areas, we also went over those in our meeting this last month here, very interesting how similar they were. Pre-ETS is something we are
going to be looking into. We did share these with everybody and we are waiting for feedback before we kind of finalize them, but Pre-ETS both what is working as far as outreach in communication with students, what could we be doing better, as well as trying to get a handle on evaluating the outcomes and impacts of the efforts toward Pre-ETS.

Similarly, subminimum wage has been a pretty, I don't know, a very -- a topic that we have talked about quite a bit, so that's something that made it's way into our priority area, as well as monitoring and advising on E1MN. And then also trying to improve our services towards underserved
populations.

So there is, I would say, an emphasis on new Americans and indigenous Minnesotans.

Outside of that the actual items that we had in our most recent meeting, we met with the new VR attorney, Ari Altman, just a little meet and greet to get to know what his role is and kind of how we can support him to the SRC.

We are also going to be reviewing our bylaws. I know that was mentioned a couple of times, not specifically as an item, but we've realized over the last couple of years with the
pandemic and how we have been meeting virtually and
just a couple of other possibly arcane elements in
our bylaws, we thought it would be worth reviewing
and seeing if there are any updates that we want to
make. As we discuss that more and come up with the
recommendations I figured I would share that with
you all in case there was any interest there.

We did have Trevor Turner, who is now
a member of the SRC-B, did give some updates on the
Connect 700 at the legislative level which he
already talked a little bit about there.

And then the other thing that I wanted
to mention, we do regular updates from counselors
in the north metro, or not the north metro, the

northern Minnesota, southern Minnesota and then the

metro itself and our metro update. And job

coaching did come up and we spent a good deal of

time talking about challenges related to that.

We did learn a little bit about what

they are trying to do and a lot of it is at the

legislative level, trying to you raise rates so

that they can financially incentivize more people

to get into the service of providing job coaching.

Which I think would be great, I think there is lots

of challenges that go into it but at the end of the
day that's a very important service that needs to
be compensated and such.

So that's all I really have. This is all still very new for me. If you have things that
I would like to ask or things that you would like
to hear about in the future as well, please let me
know. Very glad to be here and I appreciate the
opportunity to give these updates.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much,

Tyler. This is Corbb. Are you up for mentioning
very briefly your bylaws updates, the very exciting
topic, but eager to learn from what you have
learned.
MR. SADOFF: We only got volunteers to begin the process, so we just sent a meeting calendar invite out today, we are going to be having those discussions, but I will definitely apprise you of the very exciting and exhilarating topic of bylaw updates.

MR. O’CONNOR: And I was not being sarcastic on that one at all. So yah, sounds great, I appreciate it, thank you very much for being here. Are there questions for Tyler?

(No response.)

MR. O’CONNOR: Great, thank you very
much.

Judy Sanders, I imagine has a report for us about the State Independent Living council.

MS. SANDERS: I have a short one. But also, you know, I want to comment, it's very nice that Tyler and your predecessor come to these meetings to do these reports. It used to be that a member -- the job that I have on this Council to be a liaison with the Statewide Independent Living Council exists and there also used to be someone who did the same thing with the Statewide -- I mean with the Voc Rehab Council and I'm not sure why that position was never designated amongst all the
others. So it's very nice of you to come and do

this without being a member of our Council.

And I would say about the Statewide

Independent Living Council in January, we meet

every month, and it just so happened that in

January we usually have an all day meeting and it

happens to be the second Thursday of the month

which coincided with the Minnesota Disability

Council that Trevor so very capably hosted, was

having their legislative round table at this time,

that's what it used to be called. But they had

their legislative event and Trevor did a masterful
job in hosting it.

And so what we did, we had our business meeting in the morning and then we decided that we were all going to adjourn and go to this event. So I got to watch Trevor in action. And that event had -- it began with legislators, plus the governor, the lieutenant governor and they all talked about their priorities and then they had people testify for the second part of it, talking about things that they saw as issues and problems. And so we heard a lot about what their big priority is.

But it's very interesting to hear
other people talk about what they view as their legislative goals and what they would like to see.

A lot of them had personal stories and, you know, when I listen to a lot of the stories I thought being Blind is easy, I mean, and I don't mean -- I guess that's a little bit of sarcasm, but there are so many things that can limit people's lives and the one thing that I felt very grateful for was the thing that limits the lives of most Blind people are the limitations we put on ourselves. And we hopefully have the chance to do something about it and to open up opportunities for ourselves.
For a lot of these other people they don't have as much control over how they can deal with their disability in a sense that the disability itself puts limitations on it. And they needed, you know, they need PCA help and they don't get enough funding to get what their need. Or they need -- well, just mostly it involves other services that they need and we need that too, but somehow I think we are way ahead in the kind of services that we have and in the advocacy that we have at the state legislature.

And so it's a chance to be grateful for what we have and proud of the fact that we have
created a lot of it for ourselves. So that's what
I learned in January.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Judy. This is Corbb. Are there any questions for our representative to the Statewide Independent Living Council?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Hearing none, I will go ahead and move to our final topic which is our second to last topic is the standing committee reports start with the Customer Satisfaction & Goals and Priorities Committee. Wondering if you
would like to give your report again or if you have anything additional to add?

MR. THOMPSON: Nothing additional.

MR. O’CONNOR: Very good, thank you, Jeff.

Vendor Outcomes & Measures Committee.

MR. ASHMAN: Vendor Outcomes and Measures does not have a report at this time. We are going to be looking at scheduling a meeting coming up to go over any new information that Devin and or Jennifer might have.

MR. O’CONNOR: Thank you, Daniel.

Our Minority Outreach Committee.
MR. COLBRUNN: Hi Corbb, this is Mike Colbrunn. The committee did meet, actually we met today. We had a brief meeting just sort of setting some of our -- maybe the pace to which we want to proceed. We plan on meeting monthly, especially for these first couple of months as we sort of were gathering information.

We did establish that I would be reaching out to Natasha in order to maybe define what some of the groups are that we would like to concentrate on and how we should go about that.

We also established that I would have
a conversation with the new chair of the SRC-B,

which is you, so I will be reaching out to you in

the very near feature to see what ideas you may

have and the direction that you might recommend we

go or I would like you to have input on that. And

I certainly will invite you as you requested to the

upcoming meetings.

We sort of decided that the route we

wanted to go is we want to dive into the data, we

want to see if the groups that we are charged with

connecting with, if we are making those

connections, if there's any -- we really want to

see if our efforts are bearing fruit. So that will
be the conversation with Natasha as far as how we
can establish some of the demographics and some of
that information and move forward.

So we are looking to be data driven
and just sort of analyze some of the numbers and
dive into that.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you Minority Outreach Committee.

Deaf/Blind Committee.

MS. KUSZ: There is no report, we did
not meet. This is Susan.

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. Thank you,
Susan. I thought that would be the case.

Senior Services.

MS. SANDERS: Yes, this is Judy and we met briefly in January and what we've decided we want to do is try to figure out ways that we can help enhance outreach to seniors. And we want to focus on ophthalmologists.

So Jeff, one of our illustrious members on this committee, is going to try to figure out something that we could do to advertise State Services for the Blind to ophthalmologists.

We know they have the job of letting seniors know about services for the Blind and/or well anybody
who becomes Blind, actually, but seniors are who they see a lot of.

So at our next meeting which is February 10 we are going to try to begin formulating our plan for how we can do this outreach to all these fine doctors who say there is nothing else I can do for you and then they don't do anything else that they could help with. That's what we are going to do.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Senior Services.

Transition Committee.
MS. LEUCHOVIUS: The Transition Committee is meeting next week, we have nothing new to report.

MR. O’CONNOR: Sounds right, thank you.

Communication Center Committee, did we have a report?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes, we do.

MR. O’CONNOR: Okay, good.

MR. JACOBSON: We held a meeting on January 13 and it was an interesting meeting because we were exploring the impact, potential impact on the Communication Center of the Marrakesh
Treaty and some of the other changes in laws that broadened the scope of customers that the Communication Center serves.

There is actually two separate parts to that process that we explored some. One is how do we get ready for a potential increase in customers when we don't know really what that increase is going to mean? The potential increase is very large, but how many other print disabled people might be getting their books and so forth from other sources that weren't available ten years ago is something that's hard to predict, but it
still has to be considered.

The second aspect to this is figuring out how to market to a wider customer range. Because generally speaking, if you can have a greater flow of customers it can help you maintain a greater flow of funding, for one thing. And the Communication Center has some services that could be very useful to other print disabled people.

So we did have a few suggestions and you will be seeing minutes come out and you can read some of those there, but one of the things that we talked about was making sure that the services of the Communication Center were marketed
through the other VR agency, for example, where

there likely are some print disabled people and

also look for other connections like that.

But we didn't have all the answers

either and I'm sure this is going to be an ongoing

discussion. We expressed the concern that whatever

happens we want to make sure that Blind customers

get service. I really don't think this is going to

be a problem here, but we did mention there have

been cases where things like websites, even when

agencies expanded their customer base, became not

very user friendly to Blind people. For example,
we don't want to see that happen. We don't want to see Braille threatened since that is something that's very unique to Blind people and I don't think that will help. That's just one of the sides that we decided we wanted to make sure received some visibility.

So that was pretty much the meeting, plus other updates from section heads. But you can read more about some of that when you get the minutes.

Our next meeting was scheduled for February 10. Since our January meeting actually got moved back from December, we are going to move
our February 10 meeting, it looks like we are going
to move it to April 7. So that's my report if
anybody has questions I will try to answer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Are there questions?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: One thing I have always
appreciated about the Communication Center is the
level of detail in your minutes, it is just -- the
arrow has been shot right down the middle of the
best detail of what happened, but also not too
long. I appreciate it very much, Steve.

Employment Committee.
MR. O’DAY: This is Michael, I can
give a brief report. We met in December to talk
about the first job club that SSB had kind of
during the COVID period. There was a pretty small
turnout, just a couple of people, but we recognized
that, you know, you have to take it one step at a
time and kind of build off of the response that you
do get.

So I believe there will be a couple of
more job club meetings in February and then the
committee will meet, you know, probably later in
the month to assess those events to see how they
turned out. So that was really the gist of what
the meeting was in December.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Michael.

Are there questions for the Employment Committee?

(No response.)

MR. O'CONNOR: Okay. Well, our final item is for public comment. I will ask that public comments be kept as brief as possible, but let's keep it under a minute if we can. Is there public comment?

MS. DUNNAM: I have a question.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, Jennifer.

MS. DUNNAM: And if this gets long I
can take it offline, but I thought it might be helpful if others had the same question.

Typically I go to the web to get the documents for the Council meeting and those were there earlier today, that was very nice. I also very nicely got, as a regular attendee of the Council meeting, the documents sent to me later today. I've downloaded those in the same place where the web documents were, they had different file names so my curiosity was are they the same documents as the earlier versions that were put on the web, is there a good way to know which documents -- I guess I can just download them in a
different place, but I wondered if the ones posted to the web are the final versions?

MS. KUSZ: This is Susan, I can answer that question.

MR. O'CONNOR: Please do.

MS. KUSZ: They are the same documents, but a lot of times when I send them to IT they change the names of them or what have you.

I can try to see if I can make it a little more clearer or go back before I send them out in the email and make sure that they have the same name,

but typically, you know, it's -- they are the same
documents. If there was some update I would let you know in the email.

MS. DUNNAM: Okay, great. So don't do it yet, as long as I know that it is all good and I will deal with my issues. Thank you.

MS. KUSZ: No issues, you are fine Jennifer.

MR. O'CONNOR: Is there public comment or perhaps a motion to adjourn?

MS. OIEN: This is Kristin Oien. I would like to make a quick announcement.

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, Kristen.

MS. OIEN: I am excited to let you all
I know some of you already know this, but funding for the establishment of a Minnesota-based VI graduate program has been included in a larger package of the governor's educational proposals.

So specifically $700,000 each year for fiscal year '23, '24 and '25 these grant funds will be used to support the establishment and implementation of a program in Minnesota that would be able to self-sustain in the future.

The inclusion of this proposal is the first step in a legislative process. It's now up to legislators to determine if any bills are
brought up or advised or edited or moved through the committees and included in the final budget.

But I would like to specifically thank Steve Jacobson for being on our BVI Committee and supporting this process. And I'm just hopeful that we will be able to move somewhere with these efforts. Thank you, Steve.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Kristin.

MR. HELLER: Can you hear me?

MR. O'CONNOR: I don't know who is speaking, if you state your name we can call on you.

MR. HELLER: I didn't want to
interrupt, I just thought you were on the agenda

for public testimony, I can stop right now.

MR. O'CONNOR: No, that's okay, go ahead.

MR. HELLER: My name is Rick Heller.

I unofficially represent twice exceptional print disabled now known as -- I call it I unofficially represent the twice eligible.

In 2018 US Congress approved the Marrakesh Treaty, probably mispronounced it, however, and they merged Blind and print disabled, now we are all eligible. I don't see it being
advertised anywhere, however, State Services of the Blind, they changed their Talking Book Radio to people that have difficulty with reading.

I have been in conversation with Mr. Andrews. It sounds like Mr. Jacobson has been in conversation about the word print disability.

We are all in this together, frankly. I know that the Federation of the Blind isn't too happy about the removal of Blind, but again you will find the documents posted at the Library of Congress services there, what happened is work in progress.

So the whole thing is that anyone becomes gainfully employed and continues lifetime
learning with effective content software such as screen readers, they can live independently. That's kind of the storybook of special purpose outcome, ideal law, there are three elements of that.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Rick, we are going to have to cut things short here this evening.

MR. HELLER: Just one last thing. To restrict the meeting to one minute is frankly discriminating because what a person can say in one minute is inappropriate. Not even the Minnesota Legislature does that, they give you two minutes.
And if you think about people that have processing
issues, it's frankly discriminating.

I'm not here to take this meeting
over, I'm just here to drop a couple of kernels. I
will continue to do that unless you create a
policy --

MS. SANDERS: This is Judy, I think
you have already had two minutes, so you --

MR. HELLER: Excuse me, I didn't know
a Judy Sanders was running the meeting, I was going
by Mr. O'Connor.

It's important that we use the chain
of command here.
MR. O'CONNOR: Well, thank you, Rick, we appreciate your time. We are going to go ahead and see if there is a motion to adjourn at this time. Is there such a motion?

MS. SANDERS: So moved.

MR. O'CONNOR: And is there a second?

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, second.

MR. O'CONNOR: And Ryan seconds, thank you very much.

Let's go ahead and call the roll.

MR. ASHMAN: Daniel Ashman, yes.

MR. ELLER: Frank Eller, yes.
MR. HEINL: Tom Heinl, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: Gloria LaFriniere.

MR. STRUNK: She has left for the evening.

MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you Ryan.

Deborah Leuchovius.

MS. LEUCHOVIUS: Deborah Leuchovius,

yes.

MR. MOHAMED: Mohamed Mohamed, yes.

MR. O'DAY: Michael O'Day, yes.

MS. PETRONKO: Kristina Petronko, yes.

MS. SANDERS: Judy Sanders, yes.

MR. STRUNK: Ryan Strunk, yes.
MR. THOMPSON: Jeff Thompson, yes.

MR. TURNER: Trevor Turner, yes.

MR. VAN ACKER: Kyle Van Acker, yes.

MR. O'CONNOR: And Corbb O'Connor, yes. Thank you very much, we will connect again in committee meetings working on these great goals and priorities that we have in front of us with our Work Plan established and I will talk to all of you if not then, April 7. Thanks, everyone.

(Meeting adjourned at 8:09 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 147 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: February 18, 2022

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KIMBERLY K. EVAVOLD

Court Reporter