

**NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation  
May 20, 2014**

DETR/Vocational Rehabilitation  
3016 W. Charleston Blvd  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

DETR  
500 East Third St.  
Carson City, NV 89713

Elko JobConnect  
172 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Elko, NV

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa Bonie  
Mathew Dorangricchia  
Jane Gruner  
Shelley Hendren  
Kevin Hull  
Jennifer Kane  
Robin Kincaid  
Kate Osti  
Sherry Ramsey  
Scott Youngs

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bob Beers  
Ernest Hall  
Virginia Howard  
Jack Mayes  
Maxie Miller-Hooks

**GUESTS:**

Marcia Ferrell-Transcriber  
Linda Bove-Certified Deaf Interpreter  
Branton Stewart-Certified Deaf Interpreter  
Debra Scott- Certified Hearing Interpreter  
Sammy Milburn-Certified Hearing Interpreter  
Jeff Beardsley, Client Assistance Program  
Ed Guthrie, Opportunity Village  
Pedro Gonzalez

**STAFF:**

Rose Marie Reynolds, Deputy Attorney General  
Melaine Mason, Deputy Administrator, Operations  
Janice John, Deputy Administrator, Program Services  
Bill Boster, Northern Nevada Rehabilitation District  
Manager  
Kim Cantiero, Southern Nevada Rehabilitation District  
Manager  
Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Chief  
Beth Talcott, Administrative Assistant

**EXHIBITS:**

- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) April 16, 2014 meeting minutes
- Council Staff Support Survey and calculation chart
- Rehabilitation 2015 State Plan
- Policy and Procedure changes
- Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Statistics
- Rehabilitation Performance Indicators
- Rehabilitation Successful Closures report
- Breakdown of Bureau Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired/Bureau of Vocational Services Performance Indicators
- NSRC SFY 2014 Budgets

1. **ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Shelley Hendren called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. She called the roll and determined a quorum was present.

2. **VERIFICATION OF POSTING**

Beth Talcott verified that the posting was accomplished on time and per Open Meeting Law requirements.

3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Hendren asked for all present to introduce themselves.

A member of the public, Mr. Ed Guthrie from Opportunity Village added to his introduction the announcement of two partnerships with the Nevada Rehabilitation Division. One of them is between the Rehabilitation Division, Opportunity Village, Stations Casinos, and Desert Regional Center. Also noting there will be a paid internship to work program at Boulder Station Casino on June 1st. Five individuals will be participating in that to start out with. The hopes are that it will be similar to our job discovery programs which have had 17 placements this year.

The second partnership is still in negotiation; it is with the Best Buddies program, MGM, the Nevada Rehabilitation Division, and Opportunity Village. It is an internship to work program with MGM. The hope is that we will have at least 45 individuals that are participating in that program and we are looking to have a lot of placements out of that as well.

4. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

No public comments were made.

5. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (NSRC) APRIL 16, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Hendren noted several misspellings of Deputy Administrator Janice John's last name on page 7 and to add "O'Day" to the "Javitz Wagner" reference on page 7 as well as adding the word "Preferred" before "purchase program" on page 8.

Janice John noticed quite a bit of information was missing in the "Discussion/Report on Department of Education Transition Gatherings."

It was determined by the council members to "table" this agenda item to be updated and brought back to the next council meeting for approval.

6. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2015**

Ms. Hendren asked if any of the council members had any possible changes to the proposed 2015 NSRC meeting schedule. Sherry Ramsey noted the March meeting was scheduled on Saint Patrick's Day. Ms. Hendren suggested moving that meeting date to March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Other discussions regarding the year being discussed was 2015 rather than 2014, and who may not be able to attend during the 2015 legislative session followed.

Jane Gruner moved to approve the revised meeting schedule.  
Lisa Bonie seconded. Motion carried.

7. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REHABILITATION DIVISION'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN THE PARTICIPANT SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Kara Lang read through the changes proposed for the Rehabilitation Policy and Procedure manual regarding assistive technology and hearing aids. These changes have come about due to the recommendations from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

Robin Kincaid and Kate Osti requested historical data to back up a reason for the proposed changes. She requested they be presented and discussed at the next Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) meeting. Both Shelley Hendren and Janice John were more than happy to acquiesce to their requests.

Kate Osti asked for confirmation that an individuals' income does play a part in who will be paying for hearing aids. Ms. Lang replied to the affirmative. Ms. Osti also inquired as to an appeal process if the client had issues with their share of the costs. Ms. Lang specified an exception process when there would be extenuating circumstances.

Jane Gruner moved to approve the manual revisions with the caveat that the data is brought back to the next meeting.

Ms. Hendren reiterated Jane has made a motion to approve as long as we bring data back to the next meeting if we are able including the number of hearing aids that the division has purchased over the last three years, and the financial participation required for those. How many folks had to financially participate, and how many did not and if we can determine how many were actually denied and where the clients had 100 percent financial participation. Not denied, but they had full participation.

Kate Osti seconded.  
Robin Kincaid opposed.  
No abstentions. Motion passed by majority vote.

8. **DISCUSSION/REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE NSRC STATISFACTION SURVEY REGARDING THE REHABILITATION DIVISION SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL**

Scott Youngs (via phone) said out of sixteen council members only five responded. All of whom gave the council support very satisfied or 100 percent rating. He said it would be nice if more council members participated in this survey.

Sherry Ramsey asked for a longer time period to answer the request to submit a survey to 3 weeks.

9. **DISCUSSION/REPORT ON THE ENTIRE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2015 STATE PLAN**

Ms. Hendren stated the exhibit the council members have in their packets is the full Rehabilitation Division State Plan and had hoped they had taken the opportunity to read through it before the meeting.

Ms. Kincaid asked what the next step for the plan was. Janice John replied and Melaine Mason concurred the State Plan is submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) by July 1, 2014 for their approval.

Ms. Kincaid asked when the next Needs Assessment was to take place. Ms. John replied 2016, the Needs Assessment takes place every three years and the most recent report was in 2013.

Ms. Hendren noted the agenda has stated this report as an action item however the council does not normal vote on the full state plan. Ms. Mason replied exhibit A page 2, top of the page identifies all the steps that have occurred and the final step is the NSRC and Division publicly notice the opportunity to review proposed amendments. The public meeting was the current NSRC meeting and the public comments would be noted in the proposed state plan before submitting to RSA. So a vote is not necessary.

10. **OTHER REPORTS: STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

Lisa Bonie, Chair announced the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) has been working on their SPIL (State Plan Independent Living) which was started last year. They will be holding their public meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas, Elko and Carson City. On July 10<sup>th</sup> the SILC will be meeting in Las Vegas, Reno, Carson and Elko to finalize their state plan. Both these meetings are public meetings.

Ms. Bonie asked if the council would like a copy of their approved SILC and by affirmative nodding heads she said she would have copies available for the next NSRC meeting packet materials.

11. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Shelley Hendren read through the Vocational Rehabilitations Performance Indicators by group. When reporting on the marketing of resources Ms. Kincaid suggested the division contact the state retirement and assisted living facilities to add their Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) resource information to flyers for posting and in their individual newsletters. Jane Gruner suggested the senior centers as another contact/posting place.

Ms. John said the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselors do visit the senior centers. Kevin Hull added the rural VR counselors have contacts and visit their local senior centers on a regular basis.

Ms. Hendren did not spend much time on the NSRC's portion of the state plan goals, strategies and indicators as the members have been involved from the beginning.

As she continued to the Fair Hearings reports she said the division had one hearing which was dismissed in January and has one coming up in July. Ms. Hendren gave kudos to Mr. Jack Mayes and new Client Assistant Program (CAP) doing a better job at resolving issues prior to having to go to fair hearings.

Ms. Hendren mentioned a couple of staffing items, and introduced Kim Cantiero to those present as she is the division's new southern Nevada district manager. Ms. Cantiero holds a bachelor's of science in psychology, a Master's of science in counseling and educational psychology, both from UNLV, and is a certified Rehabilitation counselor. She is also a graduate of the national Rehabilitation leadership institute (NRLI) which is through San Diego State University and George Washington University.

Being acutely impacted by disabilities in her own family, she has spent the last 20 years

working to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Ms. Cantiero has accomplished this as a passionate advocate who questions, challenges, and changes processes that negatively impact individuals. She came to Nevada's VR about five years ago after the completion of a successful 9 year collaboration between VR and the southern Nevada adult mental health services.

She has a personal drive and passion for the work that we do, and please join me in welcoming Kim to the management ranks here at VR.

Kim Cantiero stood and said it is an exciting opportunity, there is a lot to be done, and I just want to make things better for our clients and our staff. Thank you.

Ms. Hendren continued the Bureau Chief of disability adjudication is retiring at the end of this month. Her replacement Kimberly Graunke has been hired to replace her and has been training for a smoother transition. Ms. Graunke has been with the state since 1989 serving in a variety of departments. She has extensive supervisory and management experience with regulatory and compliance programs, excellent communication and strong analytical skills.

The division is actively recruiting for an Accounting Assistant, Rehabilitation Counselor III, Rehabilitation Counselor II, a Rehabilitation Supervisor and a Rehabilitation Vocational Evaluator.

Ms. Hendren turned time over to Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Chief to report on the VR annual rural road trip.

Mechelle Merrill - For the last four years since the administration jelled first under Maureen Cole and now Shelley Hendren, the administrative team took it upon itself make a commitment to our rural offices that at least once a year we would go and make a visit to those offices in person, to spend some time with the staff and to understand their needs firsthand, and to thank them for what they do and spend time with them and hear them.

And it has grown. Every year that we went it got a little bigger, a few more individuals would come with us most notably our prior director Frank Woodbeck started joining us three years ago, when he came to DETR. And then our deputy director, and this year was pretty impressive in terms of the number of individuals that came on the rural tour.

We went to Ely, Elko, Winnemucca, and Fallon. We left on March 31st, and we returned on April 4th. We started the tour in Ely and we worked our way northeast and then moved back from Elko to Winnemucca to Fallon. It was a unique tour this time in that we did it as collaboration with the Nevada Broadcasters Association, which has been an amazing partner to this agency. They work with us to do all of our PSAs to reach out to individuals every month, alternating the message between outreach to individuals and outreach to business, to understand the work that we do and to share our services.

This year we also realized that it would be very important with the session coming up that our legislature, and most notably the finance committees, understand the work that this agency does, and in tow many of our partner agencies. So an invitation was given to Senator Debbie Smith, who took the time out of her schedule to go on the road with us, and her little dog Mabel.

It was pretty amazing.

I will read you the list of dignitaries that went on the tour. It was Senator Debbie Smith, Chairperson of the Interim Finance Committee. Frank Woodbeck, Director of DETR, Dennis Perea, Deputy Director. Shelley Hendren; Administrator of the Rehabilitation Division, Janice John; Deputy Administrator Rehabilitation Division, myself (Mechelle Merrill; Rehabilitation Chief), Christine Nelson; the assistant to the Director and State Board Liaison. Dr. Renee Cantu from Jobs for America's Graduates, Constance Brooks; the Vice Chancellor for the Nevada System of Higher Education, Laura Valentine; the Chief of Disability Services, Aging and Disability services, Bob Fisher; CEO of Nevada Broadcasters Association and Clay Giffin; Financial Manager at NBA. And so this large contingent of valuable individuals and their time literally got in a 15 passenger van and headed east.

We started in Ely, day one was April 1st, and we set up a dais and we kind of put it out there, Nevada Broadcasters Association did radio ads in preparation for our arrival in each community, so the communities knew we were coming.

We had small attendance in Ely, it was held at the Ely convention center. The panel of professionals was ready to speak on a number of topics. What we advertised was we were hoping to discuss economic development, education and higher education, disability needs and hiring, unemployment, and constituent outreach, whatever that would mean.

We only had four individuals that were in attendance from the public in Ely. Even though this was not a lot of participation in Ely, in terms of the number of individuals, we had the right individuals there I will tell you that that meeting was one of the most eye opening I have ever been to. In attendance were the chamber of commerce, the school district, White Pine County tourism and recreation represented, so we really had a good slice of what was needed in the Ely community, the White Pine community. We also had Michael Gus, who was the rural community liaison for Congressman Steven Horsford, who met us in Ely.

Ely's concerns/wants & needs:

- Ely has a high unemployment rate
- They have a hard time filling jobs with local graduates because there is a basic belief that good jobs do not exist in Ely
- Good jobs and education exist in Nevada's larger communities
- What they asked us to do, the community asked us to do, is work to find training opportunities that we can create in Ely, to keep Ely graduates in Ely. And to help individuals graduate in Ely.

Some of the suggestions were:

- Have workshops to teach specific skills, invite employers or small industry for outreach discussions,
- Vocational rehabilitation participation in the first Friday chamber days
- Meet with employers individually to solicit their feedback about need for graduates. (The Vocational Rehabilitation Business Development Manager, Ken Pearson, visits each community to help establish connections these types of connections.)
- Need for culinary workers, automotive workers, woodworkers, and certification programs and skills-based training to assist graduates with jobs to stay in the White

Pine county area.

- Periphery to the vocational rehabilitation concern, we heard about the need for full day kindergarten, access to federal loans and grants to expand businesses,
- They need welders
- They want radio outreach for community-centric messages, and they want assistance and counseling for prescription drug use and food and security.

(We heard a lot about prescription drug use, food and security issues in that community.)

On the second day which was in Elko with the same panel of participants. We had a larger visitor population there was over 20 individuals that participated in the audience in Elko. The big take-away message from Elko was they did not feel included in statewide activities that happen primarily in Las Vegas and to other degrees in Reno and Carson. They felt forgotten. That was the message that had the right panel to hear it, and there were many vows of inclusion made to make sure that Elko has its needs met and heard and that they would not be forgotten.

They felt the capacity was a large issue due to lack of financial resources. Director Woodbeck discussed the Dream It, Do It act, and backed by the manufacturing institute, and the right skills now program, to help create graduates in energy, mining and information technology, and healthcare. It is focused on young individuals to promote manufacturing in business.

They told us that the 16 week program at WNC or at the community college there cannot graduate enough graduates to fill the need in mining. So we heard that loud and clear the panel will continue those issues.

Other needs identified were:

- They want tax breaks for businesses;
- They want a work readiness model for any business needed to attract talent.
- They are interested in accessibility and ADA credits for businesses.
- They have a shortage of medical professionals.
- They wanted to expand their AA program to meet the needs of mining to be more than a certificate program, they wanted a larger program.
- They discussed the micro dirty jobs foundation to build opportunity for skilled trades individuals in the rural communities.
- The need for transportation services within Elko and the surrounding communities (as the restricts access to jobs.)
- They asked for more commercial flights to Las Vegas to support commuters who might actually be available to support those jobs in the mining sector.
- They want more rural Job Coaches, and want us to help them grow their own providers from a rehabilitation point of view.
- They would like us to consider making them a project search partner, and are asking what could they do to get more jobs for America's graduates out of Elko, and prevent dropout rate, which we heard was pretty high in the Elko community.

Winnemucca:

The Town Hall meetings were held at the Winnemucca Inn in one of their conference rooms. We had 7 individuals in attendance from the public, in addition to our panel. We were told that

with the population being 40 percent Hispanic that they need bilingual services in the Winnemucca area desperately. And that the Native American population has gone down 10 percent. And they are concerned about that.

Winnemucca needs:

\*They stressed transportation needs.

(There is only one taxi cab in all of Winnemucca. There is a van for the seniors and disabled, but there is no public bus. The Disabled American Veterans is the only transportation that goes to Reno, but it only has one passenger seat, ADA is not accessible. So a person who needed a wheelchair would not get service. Technically, by definition, it is really only supposed to serve veterans. It is only when on that scheduled day when they are supposed to run in to Reno and they do not have a vet that needs that one seat that they will offer the seat to others, but again it is limited.)

- The Winnemucca attendees said that there is a collaboration going on with the senior center, and the senior center has two vans, and they utilize it from 8:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, and they are seeking transportation grants for seniors and individuals seeking employment. But as we all know, grants are not guarantees. There is a new 5-3-1-1 grant for rural transit systems, and that may start in October of this year with a 24-hour advanced call notice on a fixed route Monday to Friday, 9 to 4, no weekends, there may be a little bigger loop of service.

Pershing County is getting a van, so they might be able to assist in transportation to Reno. But a lot of these things that we heard were works in progress and they were not guaranteed yet. Lovelock does currently transport to Reno twice a month. We did hear a lot from the needs of the Lovelock community, they came into Winnemucca to talk to us. But again, they suffer the same thing, but even in greater measure.

The same one taxi cab that serves Winnemucca also serves Lovelock. Senator Smith told us she grew up in Lovelock, and she remembered it from her childhood, it is the same gentleman still driving the cab.

- The primary employers in the Winnemucca area are the mines, the school district and the hospital. And they are trying to work to get the Great Basin College to expand its satellite and video instruction. Right now they have no in-person education for certain programs, and they cannot do practical exams or shoulder the higher cost of the continuing education credits.
- They need a short-term in-person training like things for Certified Driver's License (CDL) or welding certification, nursing certifications, with an instructor who can come out periodically and provide the hands-on exams and certification that would be in support to the video training.
- There is need, but there are not a lot of resources. A common rural theme.
- There is a low veteran population in that area because of the lack of veteran services. There is no Veterans representative in the Job Connect office. The National Guard is active working with the veterans in coordinating services, it is limited and by distance.

The J.O.I.N. (Job Opportunities In Nevada) office stressed that the mining industry and J.O.I.N. are both veteran friendly and give priority to veterans. They do not have enough individuals to hire in general in the mines right now.

- The medical sector told us that some doctors do not have hospital privileges in the local hospitals
- There is more need for personalized care
- There is no hospice in the Winnemucca community
- There is no home healthcare providers based in Winnemucca.
- There is a waiting list for the home companion services, there is one home companion company that provides services their cost is \$23 an hour, which if you do not have insurance or a copay and is very expensive for individuals. And it requires a prescription referral.
- ADSD (Aging and Disability Services Division) provides limited services, if eligible. Based out of Elko, but then they are put on a waiting list for the permanent shots.
- There is no SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) office in Winnemucca, and they heard that the application for those services is 65 pages, so that was very overwhelming to individuals who are seeking those services.
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There is a lack of a Social Security representative in the town. So J.O.I.N. says they have office space available if a representative could be made available from Social Security. There are two food banks in that town, in addition to indigent and ministerial services. But again, it is not enough to meet the community's needs.

In Winnemucca, Administrator Hendren, Director Woodbeck and myself were able to do a little bit of time on the radio with Doug Stoddard, the local DJ, and he gave a plug to the town hall meeting early that morning before the meeting itself. So I hope that more individuals were able to hear about it.

Fallon:

Day four was in Fallon, at the Fallon convention center with the same panel and roughly 20 individuals in attendance. Fallon has both similar and different needs.

- Fallon stressed a need for enclaves and employment supports.
- They seek DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) support.
- They would like a statute change for Individuals First language in their policies.
- They would benefit from a smaller program similar to the V.O.I.C.E. (Vocational Opportunities for Inclusive Career education) program that we have in Washoe County, to serve the high school transition population.
- The employers stressed their worries regarding the lack of applicants and individuals with high school diplomas or GEDs and the number of inappropriate or ill-equipped applicants for the jobs
  - the lack of application skills
  - they have literacy issues
  - they lack specific job skills.

Again, similar things we heard in every stop. We feel that there is a need to educate employers about DETR services to support applicants and employers, and we will do more to

outreach to that community and to all communities.

Senator Smith suggested that EDAWN, (Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada) contact the local high schools to identify employer needs and provide targeted feedback for improvement.

- The participants also said what they need is a bus in Fernley and another bus in Fallon,
- DETR is investigating options based on needs, also similar to those that we learned about in Winnemucca.
- They also stressed that although there are jobs at the Naval Air Station, it is difficult to get there, and that public transportation is not allowed on to the property, so individuals are dropped off at the gates. And that can be a long walk, especially if you have a disability, on to your work site at the NAS.

On the positives;

- Fallon has a strong business relationship
- The ACT, or the national career readiness certification is based in Fallon
- The Job Connect assists individuals with GED preparation. WNC has a workforce development program with three options for a GED equivalence and ACT certification administered locally, which was wonderful news. And the Job Connect is busy doing collaborative efforts with the school district and juvenile probation to help those populations get jobs.
- Fallon does have the Churchill Area Regional Transportation (C.A.R.T.) system, giving 24-hour advance notice rides for seniors and the disabled. The service is solid and dependable, typically used mostly for medical appointments, and it is not helpful for ad hoc or unplanned needs, such as a job interview. So unless you have some notice in advance, that's tough. It is \$3 a ride. And it is federally funded through an NDOT grant. They are possibly looking to expand their services to the greater rural community.
- Transportation coalition meetings are held monthly and they will discuss the expansion to the rural communities.

Overall, it was an amazing tour. This is the tip of the iceberg of the things that we heard. Transportation, food and security, need for specific job preparation, and help to keep graduates, and even dropouts, to get their GEDs and stay working and living in their home communities. Because there is been a loss of individuals living in some of these smaller communities, as you can see with the Native American population decline and the individuals fleeing from the Ely area, moving to Las Vegas to get jobs, and maybe they do not move back home. And that is a real loss.

This mission accomplished for us to meet with our office staff and to meet with the community and hear the needs, and I think it was mission accomplished in terms of giving our legislator in tow an opportunity to really firsthand see the needs of these communities. Not just from a rehabilitation or DETR perspective, but everyone's perspective. And I am hopeful that will serve us all well in the coming session.

## 12. REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET

Melaine Mason reported the attached budget is a state fiscal year 14 year to date April 30th. You will see that it is projecting a negative on April 30th; however, May 2nd, the work program was approved to provide \$10,000 of funding to cover that short fall.

13. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

"Hello, everyone. My name is Jeff Beardsley; I do work at Nevada Disability and Law Advocacy Law Center. I wanted to talk about that VR clients who want to go to college should be allowed to go to college out of state.

A lot of their educational goals, in specific, you know, clients here, many have very limited options that they can only go to college locally.

We have clients who have goals maybe of going to Gallaudet University, you know, California State University at Northridge, Rochester Institute of Technology. These are instructors who can communicate to them directly and for their future goals of deaf education or whatever it may be.

Within the state, there are not any other institutions that can really serve the deaf clients. And when they do go to college locally, they have to rely on the interpreter pool that's here, and the interpreter pool here doesn't necessarily always meet their needs. So as a leader and a deaf consumer myself, I'm just very concerned about educational opportunities for deaf individuals being able to go to college out of state."

"Hello, this is Pedro. In having your discussion about the hearing aids, I'm just wondering, you know, how these decisions are actually getting made. I have the same concerns as your other council member, you know, how are these decisions getting made. I mean, and also, how does cochlear implants play into this, as well. I mean, there's a lot of -- I don't know if vocational rehabilitation pays for this and all that, but one of my concerns I'll just put on for the record is I don't believe cochlear implants should be implanted in people below the age of 18. A hearing aid would be a better option for those that are under the age of 18. But I also want to know if vocational rehabilitation counselors, how they broach the subject of hearing aids, do they say don't you want a hearing aid, you should have a hearing aid. I don't know whether it's done forcefully, whether they're asked about it.

I don't -- you know, I have heard that maybe some counselors have suggested have you ever thought of getting a cochlear implant. There is a lot of research throughout that does prove that cochlear implants aren't necessarily safe for all people, especially for children.

And I think that hearing aids are fine for children that are under the age of 18, and then after the age of 18 they can make their own decisions as to whether they want an implant or continue with the hearing aid. Just wanted to bring this up for discussion."

Ms. Hendren responded; on behalf of the council, that in the next meeting, when we bring forth the data with regard to hearing aids and how we arrived at that decision in the Policy and Procedure manual, we can talk a little bit further about how we handle speaking with clients that may want a hearing aid, and how that subject is broached. So we can include that in our conversation for that agenda item in the next meeting.

Mr. Beardsley added; "I just want to throw my two cents in, in addition to Pedro's comments. I

was -- would like to also suggest that you may want to have a person who is experienced in deaf culture, to be included, and do some training for maybe the VR counselors in discussing cochlear implants, hearing aids, and all the issues that relate to them."

Ms. Kincaid asked of an agenda item to be added to the next council meeting. One to bring a data update regarding where the division is a strong encouragement to hire persons with disabilities in the federals. She encouraged other council members to suggest agenda items to be presented or discussed.

Ms. Hendren encouraged the council members to contact the Council staff support.

Rose Marie Reynolds, Deputy Attorney General explained You should keep in mind, though, the posting requirements, if you have a meeting scheduled, you need let the support staff know how far in advance for research, exhibit and within posting requirements.

Ms. Hendren added we far exceed the open meeting requirement of 3 business days; typically we are going to need two weeks' notice before the meeting, to be able to get it on the agenda. We post early so that we can make available if anyone needs accommodations for the meetings. So probably two weeks prior is the latest you could submit agenda items.

Mr. Gonzalez commented, "My goal for coming to these meetings and my involvement in all of this is to see people with disabilities have equal access to vocational rehabilitation, 100 percent. Just so you know.

Please never ignore federal law, state law, and continue with compliance. I want to see all of you become great role models. And support the community and all the (indiscernible) so that we can see that Nevada is a great state for people with disabilities. And continue to show we (the community), that you do care. Thank you. "

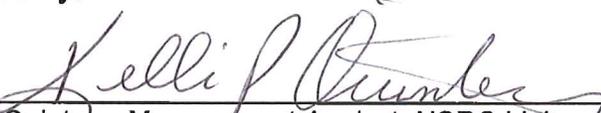
14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jennifer Kane moved to adjourn.

Jane Gruner seconded

Meeting adjourned at 11:10a

**Edited By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelli Quintero, Management Analyst, NSRC Liaison

**Approved By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting was conducted by Shelley Hendren, DETR, and Rehabilitation Division Administrator