

DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022

DSB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Clark, At-Large, Board Chair

Erika Evans, At-Large

Theresa Petrey, ACB

David Henry, NFB

William “Bill” Heaston, Lions

Tyrone Williams, ASBVI

Kara Aaron, BVA

DSB BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Tiffany Moore, AER

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra Edwards, OIB

James Caton, ASBVI

Sharon Giovinazzo, WSB

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

Sandy Rowland, VFP

Larry Wayland, FAIRS

Whitney Musick, AER

Attorney General’s Office Representative: None

Governor’s Office Representative: None

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) Board Meeting Support Staff: Betsy Barnes, Theresa Bertram, Megan Lamb, LaToya Baker, and Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes.

Others Present: Diya Chakraborty, Senior at the AR School for the Blind-Jump Start Summer Program Participant

**Meeting Agenda Approval-**

William Heaston made a motion, and David Henry seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion carried.

**Board Meeting Minutes Approval-**

Erika Evans asked for approval of March 11, 2022, minutes. William Heaston made a motion, and Theresa Petrey seconded the motion to approve the March 11, 2022, minutes. The motion carried.

**Director’s Report – Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes**

Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes began the Director’s report by thanking the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) staff, the DSB Board, and Chairman Keith Clark for their support this quarter. Dr. Williams-Stokes stated that Chairman Keith Clark agreed to highlight DSB’s

consumer success stories year-round. Dr. Williams-Stokes asked LaTasha Mays, Transitional Manager in the Little Rock office to introduce consumer Diya Chakraborty. Ms. Chakraborty expressed how the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) Jump Start Summer Program and being a senior at the Arkansas School for the Blind has benefited her journey. Ms. Chakraborty was complimentary of the services and thanks DSB staff for the support.

**GR/Maintenance of Effort-** Dr. Williams-Stokes discussed the target to meet the \$1,782,112 Maintenance of Effort/Match for the Vocational Rehabilitation Grant Award. The Maintenance of Effort/Match (MOE) also includes the Vending Facility Program Set-aside funds. The Division of Services for the Blind is also on target to expend the State General Revenue (SGR) SFY 2022 funds allotted in the amount of \$1,897,471.

**Indirect Cost Rate Proposal-** Dr. Williams-Stokes mentioned that the fiscal team is working to finalize the Indirect Cost Rate Proposal. The proposal was submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for approval. The proposal is also a requirement listed in the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) issued by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

#### **Corrective Action Plan for Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)**

Dr. Williams-Stokes provided the update on the Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The first quarterly was submitted to RSA at the end of April. The next update is due by July 31<sup>st</sup>. DSB has not received a response from RSA on the information submitted. Dr. Williams-Stokes commended the work that the team has done to coordinate and participate in meetings with the Technical Assistance Centers (TAC) to ensure DSB addresses all the updates per RSA requirements. A summary of updates includes:

**Finding 1 - Insufficient Policies-** Draft policy revisions for fiscal and program were submitted to RSA on April 30, 2022. No response has been received from RSA. A new revision will be submitted on July 31<sup>st</sup> for other areas that were not addressed in April.

**Finding 2 - Insufficient Internal Controls-** DSB is working to update internal controls in AWARE and within the AASIS financial accounting system process. Quality Assurance and Fiscal internal controls updates will be submitted on July 31, 2022.

**Finding 3 - Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services to Potentially Eligible Students with Disabilities** – DSB is currently able to track Potentially Eligible students in AWARE which allows counselors to provide or arrange for the provision of pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities who are potentially eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. During the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) monitoring review period 2017-2019 the agency did not have this process in place. DSB will continue to update the case management system to capture the required data.

**Finding 4 - Obligations and Expenditures Not Properly Assigned to Correct Period of Performance** – DSB is working with Alliance to update the budget module to ensure the period of performance is captured in AWARE. DSB has identified a grants management system and will only need to purchase a license because their Adult Education Partner already has the

system in place. We are fortunate to have this opportunity and will save our resources because of this partnership. The plan addresses the period of performance finding for the administrative side and captures non-Federal and Federal obligations to ensure expenditures are paid from the correct Federal award for the VR award. DSB currently tracks this manually with internal order numbers.

**Finding 5 - Financial Management System and Internal Controls Fail to Ensure Supporting Documentation is Maintained** - DSB has not exercised the requisite methods of administration, fiscal management, or internal controls necessary to ensure financial accountability and the proper expenditure of funds. DSB must employ methods of administration that ensure the proper and efficient administration of the VR program, including financial accountability. DSB must implement financial management and internal control procedures necessary to ensure the proper expenditure of program funds for allowable program costs. These procedures must include the retention of supporting documentation for the expenditures Dr. Williams-Stokes mentioned a draft is scheduled to be finalized by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Finding 6 - Internal Control Deficiencies – Rates of Payment, Financial Reporting, and Personnel Costs**- DSB is working with the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) to develop effective internal controls and rates of the payment fee schedule to address this item. The procedures or PARS or tool used to report and track the Personnel costs is under development. Dr. Williams-Stokes mentioned a draft is scheduled to be finalized by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Finding 7 - Lack of Internal Controls for the Development, Implementation, and Monitoring of Contracts**- DSB does not maintain effective internal controls over the Federal awards necessary to provide reasonable assurances that it is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award. Specifically, internal control deficiencies exist for developing contracts, monitoring contracts, reviewing, and approving invoices and supporting documentation, which does not permit DSB to ensure all costs charged to the contracts are reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable under the VR program. DSB does not have mechanisms to monitor and reconcile contracts reimbursed with Federal funds, to ensure that expenditures reported are accurate, allocable, and allowable, or to track, account, and report program and fiscal data for service provision accurately on the RSA-2 or RSA-911 reports. Dr. Williams-Stokes mentioned a draft is scheduled to be finalized by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Finding 8 - Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Reporting**- DSB has reconciled the MOE reporting to include the Vending Facility Program Set-aside funds. Updated reports will be submitted to RSA on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**OIB Committee Purpose:** The OIB Committee brought concerns to Dr. Williams-Stokes at the OIB Committee meeting that was held earlier the same day. The DSB Board created the OIB committee to address concerns and issues related to OIB Program or community issues related to Older Blind Individuals. The committee members recommended that the DSB Board provide guidance on topics that the committee should address to ensure the time commitment is productive for the members who participate. Dr. Williams-Stokes asked the Chairperson of the OIB committee if any of the board members have suggestions or recommendations to offer at

this time, or if these issues would like to be addressed for the next meeting to give members time to think about the issue. Terry Sheeler stated that some organizations are represented on the subcommittee that are not always in attendance. Ms. Sheeler mentioned that the committee wants to be sure that the members hear from everyone. She suggests that there is something in place to know who will be attending and those who no longer want to be on the committee.

**Collaborative Efforts** - Dr. Williams-Stokes will continue to serve as the Secretary for the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, CSAVR Region 6 Representative, and the Little Rock Founders Lions Club. The leadership exposure provides opportunities for the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) to partner at the state and national levels with organizations created to improve resources for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Many DSB staff are positioned to serve as a resource to counties throughout Arkansas to get the word out about DSB.

### **Assistant Director's Report – Betsy Barnes**

Assistant Director Barnes stated that the DSB SFY 2022 Budget Report and Expenditures for January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022, are included in the board packet. DSB expended \$996,676.21 on Client Services and \$1,187,126.96 on Agency Operations for a total quarterly expenditure of \$2,183,803.17

DSB has 61 employed staff or 78% of positions filled. Currently, 17 positions are either advertised, conducting interviews, or pending completion of background checks or hire dates. Since the March Board meeting, staff that has joined the DSB family are Brandy Bryant, Executive Assistant for Dr. Williams-Stokes, Justin Smith, Quality Assurance Administrative Analyst, Billie Jean Rodgers, Rehab Counselor Jonesboro, and we welcome back Jackie Plummer, Agency Fiscal Manager-Extra Help. DSB is fortunate to have an Intern this summer – Emily Turner. Marion Asmus was promoted to AAIII in the Little Rock office, and Deon Harris was promoted to Area Manager of the Central/Pine Bluff area. DSB had 7 terminations during this quarter.

### **Human Resources Update:**

DSB has four staff working toward their Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling program: Heather Grigsby, LaTasha Age, Bridget Glover, and Stephanie Moten. Currently, several universities across the nation have lost their accreditation for their Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling programs. We are looking for options for our staff. We currently cannot pay tuition for non-accredited programs. Currently, 7 of the 19 counselors have their CRC.

Jacob Grace is completing his internship in the Orientation and Mobility of the Blind (O&M) Master's program at UALR.

Megan Lamb, Field Administrator is enrolled in the National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute with San Diego State University. Two staff, Heather Grigsby and Deon Harris, are enrolled in the National Certified Rehabilitation Leadership Certification program with the Institute on Community Inclusion at the University of Wisconsin Stout. Pre-ETS Manager, LaTasha Mays, has enrolled in the University of Mississippi, Vision Specialist program.

During this quarter DSB staff attended several conferences. Tina Shores and Heather Grigsby attended the OIB Program Manager's Conference in Denver. Theresa Bertram attended the International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) in Iowa.

The staff has attended CSAVR, NCSAB, WIOA Partners meetings, and Arkansas NFB, during the last 3 months. This next quarter Jacob Grace will attend the National AER conference, Director Williams-Stokes will attend the CSAVR Executive Meeting, Ginger Robertson will attend the National NFB conference in New Orleans, and Gustavo Manzanales will attend the National American Council for the Blind conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

### **Field Services Administrator's Report – Megan Lamb**

Summer Field Services Meeting will be in Hot Springs from June 27<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. All the Field Services team will be in attendance along with the administration and the Quality Assurance Team. The Quality Management Technical Assistance Center (QM-TAC) will attend to provide in-person training for our staff. The theme for this year's Field Service Meeting is "Reset, Reboot, and Recharge."

Field Services has tested the auto budget and regional budgets in our test version of AWARE. Dr. Lamb mentioned that she looks forward to training staff on these updates recommended by the QM TAC during our Field Services Meeting. These updates should reduce some of the work for staff in AWARE related to authorizations and budgets while enhancing DSB's ability to prioritize the expenditure of funds based on agency needs.

Staff participated in Supported Employment 101 and 102 trainings with the Quality Employment TAC. They were then able to attend a Question-and-Answer Session on May 17<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions that these trainings raised. We just received the results from the Apprenticeship Survey from the Quality Employment TAC and will be working with them to develop the pilot project and training for staff based on this feedback.

Field Services has completed expending all the State General Revenue Funds for this year. This includes funds for OIB, Independent Living, and VR. The Field Staff is currently working on the fiscal year close-out process for this year. All payments in AWARE must be submitted by June 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Pre-ETS Staff are currently in the middle of Jump Start with students having one more week for the in-person program. Students have been able to participate in work experiences as well as lessons on resumes, important soft skills for the workplace, and Orientation and Mobility. Students even braved the city bus system in the rain this week.

DSB is hosting a Job Fair at the Embassy Suites in Rogers, AR on June 30, 2022. There are spots available for businesses at no cost.

DSB was able to send 2 staff to the recent Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) Manager's Conference in Denver. The Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) Technical Assistance Center is developing a best practices committee of states from across the country to assist states with improving service to OIB consumers. Most states have certified staff to work with their OIB

consumers although it is not required by RSA. DSB is working to develop positions to allow the certified staff Rehab Teachers to work with DSB consumers. Staff learned about several best practices that can be discussed and reviewed to see if they will work for DSB to continue to improve services and opportunities for consumers.

### **Quality Assurance Report - Sherlyn Harris**

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit has a new team member, Justin Smith. Justin serves in the role of a Statistician. He is an asset to the team. The unit currently has one vacancy, the Administrative Specialist III position. QA is in the process of readvertising this position due to the sparse number of inquiries during the initial job posting.

Sherlyn Harris, the Quality Assurance Manager, is collaborating with a member of VRTAC-QM to aid in internal controls and compliance issues addressed in the Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The QA Team collectively worked to address the findings in the CAP, per RSA's monitoring report. The policies and procedures manual ensures the reporting process of internal controls by following RSA-PD-19-03 to provide accurate data relevant for staff to identify best practices in Vocational Rehabilitation to serve DSB consumers. The QA Team submitted a draft of the policy to the VRTAC-QM, for review, at the end of April.

DSB Auditors continue to review cases daily to verify counselors are following federal guidelines when processing cases. Although, in the event of a corrective action finding(s) Auditors refer to policy to confirm that QA is rendering a fair and unbiased decision. The Statistician follows agency and federal guidelines to prepare the monthly stats reports and all other federal reporting documentation.

The update regarding the Strategic Plan identifies six goals describing the objectives, strategies (action plan), performance measures, metrics, baselines, targets, and outcomes for PY 2021-2022. Each goal highlights the vision and mission of DSB, and the steps taken to achieve ongoing success for the agency and the consumers served.

### **Business and Technology Administrator's Report - Jim Pearson**

Most highway locations are open for business, except for the two White River sites. Sales are down about 50%. The VA site in Fayetteville is still closed and will be until 2023. The Federal Building in Little Rock was opened for about 3 months with staffed operations, but sales would not provide a profit. We are working with GSA to convert this site over to vending machine operations. We have three vacant locations, and one trainee started the initial process of licensure. The open locations are #005 DHS, #037 @ Capitol Mall, and #097 Revenue.

### **AIRS Report -Theresa Bertram**

Theresa Bertram updated the DSB Board concerning Arkansas Information Reading Services (AIRS). Numbers continue to remain steady. Listenership numbers remain steady according to ARPBS analytics at <http://airs.aetn.org>. AIRS averages approximately 2400 listeners a week. AETN-4 Audio is accessible on televisions with local channels, and the platform has about one hundred listeners a week. AIRS Plus, which can be reached at (844)-888-0981, has

approximately three hundred listeners. Newsline has approximately three hundred listeners signed up with 40 to 50 loyal users. Information to join Newsline is on nfb.org. AIRS Radio has 281 active followers on Facebook.

## **Old Business Section**

### **WIOA Update-Dr. Megan Lamb**

Dr. Lamb discussed the RSA II. The RSA II is compiled by using the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) from October 1, 2021, to June 9, 2022. The report categorizes expenditures by service category.

For the same period of October 1, 2021, to present, the expenses by service category were as follows: assessment was \$8,691.97; diagnosis and treatment \$509,481.15; training \$813,143.76; job services \$5,300.00; transportation \$29,602.53; maintenance \$53,813.23; rehabilitation technology \$240,829.70; supported employment \$0; reader services \$0; personal attendant services \$5,874.00; other services \$572,522.17; technical assistance \$395. Training category as follows: graduate college was \$45,373.03; four-year college \$268,991.01; junior college \$34,776.92; vocational \$88,667.47; on-the-job \$2,880.00; disability skills training \$136,357.73; and, miscellaneous (costs that were more specific to the consumer's individual needs) \$179,040.00; job readiness \$57,067.60. Job services are as follows: job search assistance \$500.00; job placement \$4,000.00; on-the-job support time-limited \$800.00.

Dr. Lamb explained that the RSA II not only outlines expenditures but identifies the specific number of actual participants who receive each service. The chart represents "paid for" services between October 1, 2021, present in these categories. The breakdown is as follows: assessment 26; diagnosis and treatment 210; graduate college 8; four-year college 39; junior college 12; vocational training 11; on-the-job training 4; disability skills training 20; miscellaneous training 22; job search assistance 1; job placement assistance 4; on-the-job supports time-limited 1; transportation 35; maintenance 15; rehabilitation technology 83; reader services 0; personal attendant services 1; other services 72; reader 0; job readiness training 6; and technical assistance 1.

Dr. Lamb presented an update on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). She stated that the program year 2021 contains two-quarters of data. The program year runs from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. The Measurable Skill Gains (MSG) include 57 with 5 secondary diplomas, 1 educational functioning level 55 secondary report cards or post-secondary transcripts, 1 training milestone, and 2 skill progression. The reported credential rate is 0% per RSA. For the year 2021, there were 24 Measurable Skill Gains, 1 secondary diploma, 23 secondary report cards or post-secondary transcripts, and 1 skill progression.

The program Year 2020 – 2 Quarters

- ▶ 23 Credentials
- ▶ 2 Associate's Degrees
- ▶ 5 Bachelor's Degrees

- ▶ 13 Secondary Diplomas
- ▶ 2 Vocational/Technical Certificates
- ▶ 1 other Recognized Diploma, Degree, or Certificate

#### Employment Rate PY2020

- ▶ 2nd Quarter After Exit – 78 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (78/340) is 22.9%
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter After Exit – 14 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (14/356) is 3.9%
- ▶ Retention PY2020 (36/78) is 46.2%

#### Employment Rate PY2021

- ▶ 2nd Quarter After Exit – 59 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (59/197) is 29.9%
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter After Exit – 50 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (50/225) is 25.3%
- ▶ Retention PY2021 (50/94) is 53.2%

#### Median Wages PY2020

- ▶ At Exit - \$13.27 per hour
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter After Exit - \$7,116.69/quarter or (\$14.83 per hour)

#### Median Wages PY2021

- ▶ At Exit - \$13.85 per hour
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter After Exit - \$6,773.10/quarter (\$13.85 p/hour)

#### Program Outcomes

- ▶ VR Program Year 2020 Closures (July 1, 2020 – June 10, 2021)
  - 139 Closed-Rehabilitated
- ▶ OIB Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (October 2020-September 2021)
  - 25 Closed-Goals Met

### **2022 Performance Goal and Compensation System (PGCS) – Betsy Barnes**

DSB staff have completed their 2021-2022 Annual Performance evaluation or PGCS – Performance Goal and Compensation System. DSB has 3 staff that are “Role Models” or an overall rating of 4.5- 5. Seven of our staff performed “Highly Effective” or an overall rating of 4.

All staff with the following ratings will receive merit increases: Role Model (5) 5.90%, Highly Effective (4) 5.45 %, and Solid Performer (3) 5.00%.



For the 2022-2023 performance rating period, all staff will be required to take Interpersonal Communications. Supervisors are required to complete You've Got Problems, We've Got Solutions. Staff and their supervisors will identify additional training to be completed during the rating period. The 2022-2023 Performance Groups and Measures have been sent to all the staff.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SFY 2023 Budget-Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes\*vote required**

Dr. Williams-Stokes stated that the SFY 2023 Budget has been completed. The operations budget which takes care of the salary and fringe total was \$6,663,837.00. For the program, the budget to provide services for consumers statewide is \$4,646,788.00. Bill Heaston motioned to approve the SFY2023 budget as presented. Tyrone Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **DSB Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment-Betsy Barnes**

Assistant Director Betsy Barnes provided an update on DSB Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. DSB has finalized the contract with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) School of Public Affairs and their Research Institute to conduct a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. DSB hopes to present the final report to the Board at the December 2022 or March 2023 meeting. DSB plan to identify the needs of youth and students including their need for Pre-ETS, in coordination with transition services provided within secondary and post-secondary settings. The Needs Assessment will identify strategies to connect DSB with quality training programs; improve employment outcomes; enhance Supported Employment and Job Placement vendors; and improve DSB performance outcomes with credential attainment, median earnings, and sustained employment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters after exit.

Ms. Barnes stated that DSB looks forward to working with UALR as they conduct surveys, interviews, and focus groups with our stakeholders including the DSB staff, Board of Directors, Service Providers, Employers, and Consumers. The final report will identify any barriers to providing quality rehabilitation services. DSB will then establish a work plan to address these barriers in the State Plan.

### **Recruitment and Retention Pilot Project:**

DSB is one of 5 agencies in the nation to participate in a Recruitment and Retention Pilot project with VRTAC-Quality Management consultants. Last week staff participated in an assessment to gain information to develop an overall agency plan for the recruitment and retention of counselors and staff. Our next assessment session will be in July.

### **DSB State Plan Update-Megan Lamb**

Dr. Lamb discussed the DSB State Plan Update. The State Plan provides a comprehensive overview of the services that DSB plan to provide with the Vocational Rehabilitation and

Supported Employment grant awards. The two-year update is part of a requirement by RSA to ensure quality services are provided, reported, and evaluated as needed. DSB has completed the updates on our current state plan with guidance from RSA. DSB also finalized its performance measure rates with RSA and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) for Program Years 2022 and 2023. These rates will be the statewide measures that DSB and ARS will be measured on for the upcoming program years. The negotiated rates are based on the PY2020 rates that Arkansas achieved with a slight improvement as requested by RSA.

The negotiated rates are:

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter After Exit 60.5% for PY22 and 61.5% for PY23. In PY2020, Arkansas achieved 60.4%

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter After Exit 57.3% for PY22 and 57.9% for PY23. In PY2020 the actual rate was 57.2%

Median Earnings 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter After Exit is \$5,697 for PY22 and \$5,787 for PY23. In PY2020, the actual rate was \$5,696.

Measurable Skill Gains 55.6% for PY22 and 57.6% for PY23. In PY2002 the actual rate was 54.6% with a target rate of 24%.

Credential Attainment is 28.9% for PY22 and 30.9% for PY23. In PY2020 the actual rate was 26.2%.

### **Report on Quarterly Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) Advisory Committee Activities-Sandra Edwards or designee**

#### **OIB Report- Sandra Edwards**

Sandra Edwards provided an update on Older Individuals who are Blind report. The OIB met via teleconference on June 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The committee met on ways on what they can do to help the OIB program with DSB. The OIB program is accumulating more clients in the program. Two of the topics were transportation and helping in aiding within the home so that consumers would not need to go to an assisted living facility. OIB meets on the second Friday, every three months. The next meeting will be in September via teleconference.

#### **OIB Services and Outcomes Update- Dr. Megan Lamb**

DSB is currently serving 335 individuals in the OIB program. For Federal Fiscal Year 2021, which ran from October 2020 until September 2021, DSB received 411 referrals to the OIB program and closed 35 cases successfully. For Federal Fiscal Year 2022, which began October 1, 2021, DSB has received 317 OIB referrals and closed 70 cases successfully. DSB continues to provide assessments, assistive technology devices and training on them, surgical and therapeutic treatment related to visual disabilities, orientation and mobility training, daily living skills, and transportation as needed to our consumers. Our largest service request continues to be for assistive technology devices and training on how to use them.

**Report on Quarterly Disability Rights Arkansas (DRA) Activities-Mr. Tom Masseau or designee**

Not present to give a report.

**Report on Quarterly AR State Independent Living Council (AR-SILC) Activities-. Dr. Sha' Anderson or designee**

Dr. Sha' Anderson was not present. A written report was provided to Board Members prior to the meeting.

**CONSUMER INPUT**

**Arkansas Council of the Blind-Theresa Petrey**

Theresa Petrey mentioned that the Arkansas Council of the Blind (ACB) will be holding its virtual state convention on August 19-20, 2022. Next year, it will be in person. The convention is open to DSB Staff, and DSB Board Members. The Annual National convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, and hybrid form. The dates for the convention to be held in person are from July 1-July 8, however, the convention will begin virtually on June 18<sup>th</sup> with the annual ACB auction. On June 22, there will be a call-to-order meeting held virtually when the standing rules will be read. The reason for the call-to-order on June 22 has to do with the fact that several special interest affiliates would like to be able to conduct any orders of business, from June 23-June 25. During the week of July 1 to July 8, zoom links will be sent to those who have registered but will be attending virtually. This will allow for any Q&A from those who attend virtually. There will also be dates set aside from July 11-July 13 for any postconvention voting that may need to take place. All attendees whether attending in person or virtually will have an opportunity to vote, provided they have registered for the convention.

**National Federation of the Blind (NFB)**

Board member David Henry provided the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Arkansas report. NFB state convention was held virtually on March 30, 2022, and April 1-2, 2022. NFB transitioned from a state convention in the fall to the spring. The state convention had Dr. Cassandra Williams- Stokes, Toni Fraser, and Sharon Giovinazzo as speakers. There were about 60 individuals that attended virtually. The National Convention will be held July 5-10, 2022, in New Orleans.

**Erika Evans stated that the next meeting will be held on Friday, September 9, 2022- at 1:00 p.m.**

Erika Evans asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Heaston motioned to adjourn the meeting and Theresa Petrey seconded. The motion carried.

**3:00 P.M. ADJOURN**