

**DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023**

DSB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Clark, At-Large, Board Chair
Erika Evans, At-Large
Theresa Petrey, ACB
David Henry, NFB
Tyrone Williams, ASBVI

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Kara Aaron, BVA
James Caton, ASBVI
Larry Wayland, FAIRS
Eric Yarberry, WSB

DSB BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Tiffany Moore, AER

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

Sandra Edwards, OIB
Sandy Rowland, VFP

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, Amber Neal, DiAnnette Finks, Dr. Cassandra Williams-Stokes, Gustavo Manzanales, Amy Jackson, Sherlyn Harris, Megan Lamb, Deon Harris, LaTasha Mays, LaToya Baker, Thippasone Douangkesone, Tina Shores, and Brandy Bryant

Others Present: Dr. Charisse Childers, Director of DWS; Molly Hernandez, Disability Rights Arkansas

Meeting Agenda Approval- Chairman Keith Clark asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Theresa Petrey made a motion to approve the agenda. Erika Evans seconded, and the motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes Approval-

Chairman Keith Clark asked for approval of the December 9, 2022, minutes. David Henry made a motion to approve the minutes. Tyrone Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

DSB Gift and Bequest: A recommendation that the board approves a request to provide a plaque of recognition to the family of William “Bill” Heaston. The funds to purchase the plaques will come from the DSB Gift and Bequest account. Chairman Keith Clark asked for a motion from the board to purchase a plaque using funds from the DSB Gift and Bequest account to recognize Bill Heaston’s dedication to the DSB Board. David Henry made a motion to purchase the plaque. Theresa Petrey seconded, and 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, and the DSB Board for their support.

Dr. Williams-Stokes reminded members that the DSB Board Meetings are open to the public. Act 56 allows the agency to post the agenda and meeting information on the DSB website and www.Arkansas.gov. Dr. Stokes encouraged board members to forward the meeting notice to their respective organizations.

Dr. Williams-Stokes stated that voting Board members are appointed by the Governor. She noted that currently there are 2 members who are term-limited beginning June 30th and one vacancy due to a deceased member. Dr. Stokes stated that DSB will work with the Governor’s office to get new members appointed. Members should plan to serve until they are officially replaced.

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 fourth quarterly update is due to RSA by April 30, 2023. Feedback has not been received on the January 2023 submission. Commendations to the DSB team (Megan Lamb, Program updates, Rhonda Garmon, Fiscal updates, Sherlyn Harris, Quality Assurance updates) who coordinated and participated in meetings with the Technical Assistance Centers to ensure DSB addressed all updates per RSA requirements. A summary of updates includes:

Finding 1 - Insufficient Policies-Draft policy revisions for fiscal and program are being finalized for the April 30th submission to RSA.

Finding 2 - Insufficient Internal Controls- DSB is working to update internal controls in AWARE and within the AASIS financial accounting system process. The process to procure a new grants management system (WebGrants) is under development. This has been delayed due to incompatibility with the vendor and systems.

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 VR services. During the RSA monitoring review period 2017-2019, DSB did not have that in place.

Finding 4 - Obligations and Expenditures Not Properly Assigned to Correct Period of Performance -DSB is working with Alliance to address the budget module to ensure the period of performance is captured in AWARE. DSB is working to identify a grants management system or some other system that allows DSB to address the period of performance on the administrative side and capture non-Federal and Federal obligations and ensure expenditures are paid from the correct Federal award for the VR award.

Finding 5 - Financial Management System and Internal Controls Fail to Ensure Supporting Documentation is Maintained - DSB has not exercised the requisite methods of administration, financial 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. The process to procure a new grants management system (WebGrants) is under development. This has been delayed due to incompatibility with the vendor and systems.

Finding 6 - Internal Control Deficiencies – Rates of Payment, Financial Reporting, and Personnel Costs- DSB is working with the TAC to develop effective internal controls and rates of payment fee schedule to address this item. The procedures or PARS or tool used to report and track the Personnel costs is under development. DSB has a draft policy on rates of payment process that will be submitted on April 30th.

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-II or RSA-911 reports. Draft contract monitoring policy will be submitted to RSA on April 30th.

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 April 30th.

Collaborative Efforts:

OIB funding- Provides additional support for the OIB program needs and ensures DSB does not have a waiting list. These funds are under the state general revenue appropriation. \$700K is the current amount set aside for the OIB program. Technology services are available to OIB consumers.

OIB Committee/DSB Board member - William “Bill” Heaston passed away and was a member of the OIB Committee. DSB will work with the OIB Chairman to get a new appointee.

Assistant Director’s Report – Betsy Barnes

Fiscal:

Included in the board packet are the SFY 2023 Budget Report and Expenditures for July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. DSB spent \$2,057,996.81 on Client Services and \$2,465,539.52 on Agency Operations, for a Total Expenditure of \$4,523,536.33.

Human Resources Update:

DSB has 64 employed staff or 82% of the positions filled. DSB has 14 vacant positions. DSB is currently under a Hiring Freeze. Since the December Board meeting, staff that has joined the DSB family are: DiAnnette Finks – Staff Development Coordinator, Wendy Douangkesone – Administrative Specialist for Cost Reimbursement, Gabrielle Gillespie – Extra Help – VFP program, and Bettye Johnson – Extra Help – Technology Lab. Since the December Board meeting, Jim Pearson retired on December 31st. DSB had two resignations, Mason Murphey with the VFP program, and Justin Smith, Statistician with the Quality Assurance section.

Staff Development:

DSB has three staff working toward their Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling program: LaTasha Age, Bridget Glover, and Stephanie Moten. Three staff, Rakim Cheeks, Heather Grigsby, and Angela Gray are preparing to take the CRCC Exam. LaToya Baker is enrolled in the Master's in Human Resources program at UALR. Jacob Grace is doing his Internship in the Orientation and Mobility of the Blind (O&M) Master's program at UALR. Megan Lamb, Field Administrator graduated in December from the Executive Leadership program at the National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute with San Diego State University.

Director Williams attended the CSAVR Executive Committee Meeting in January. Debra Newton attended the Randolph Sheppard Conference held in February 2023. Next week Betsy Barnes and Amy Jackson will attend the OIB Manager's meeting. At the end of the month, staff will attend the state National Federation of the Blind meeting and Arkansas Council of the Blind at the end of April. In April, staff will attend CSAVR and NCSAB. CSAVR is conducting pre-conference sessions online for field services staff.

VFP:

Most of the highway locations are open for business, except for the two White River sites. Sales are still down about 50%. The VA site in Fayetteville is still closed, but DSB has an applicant who has applied for the vending manager position for the location. DSB is processing the paperwork so that the applicant begins training. There is a possibility the facility will open in the next few months. The #1 Capitol Mall-Little Rock and the Revenue Department in Little Rock are vacant. DSB plans to begin installing the new vending machines this month at the various locations.

DSB is actively recruiting for VFP Board Members and is planning an in-person VFP Conference in August of this year.

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. DSB has developed a Work Plan to be implemented during the next 2-3 years. During April, DSB plan to work on a comprehensive recruitment plan. In May, DSB is planning a Leadership Retreat, to include training on Organizational Change and Employment Engagement. Our presenters will be Ron Vessell with the VRTAC team and Kari Wilson with Missouri VR. After the retreat, DSB will develop a communications plan regarding DSB's mission and values. This summer, DSB plans to have each of the leadership teams participate in a 360-degree assessment.

Field Services Administrator's Report – Dr. Megan Lamb's Report

Field Report

DSB has completed the updates requested by RSA on Chapters 1-6, 13, and 15, and the policies have been approved by RSA. These chapters and updates have been submitted to the DSB Board for approval. DSB launched the Supported Employment Pilot with assistance from the VRTAC for Quality Employment and Virginia Commonwealth University in February. This pilot has selected 4 consumers who will be receiving Supported Employment Services from counselors participating in the pilot and vendors who agreed to participate. This pilot will use the new Supported Employment policy, payment guidelines, forms, and rates. The pilot will provide feedback on how the policy and procedures are working together with reporting methodology to achieve and document consumer success. DSB, the Office of Skills Development, and the VRTAC-QE are working together to begin an apprenticeship pilot as well. This pilot is focusing on jobs in the IT field. Several consumers have expressed interest and employers are being identified to allow for the placement of those consumers.

DSB has worked to find ways to improve the federal performance measures and ensure target rates are achieved. As part of this, work was done to review the consumers who make up the possible credential attainment candidates for DSB. It was determined that one step was missing in recording their successful attainment

in the RSA 911 and this was corrected in the case management system. This should result in a higher credential rate at the close of this quarter on March 31st.

The Rate Setting Methodology for DSB is with RSA for review and once approved DSB can begin to implement rates determined using that methodology. DSB will be represented on a panel at the CSAVR Conference this spring to discuss the rate-setting process development and Supported Employment pilot as a model and example for other states.

DSB has worked with NTACT:C to improve the Pre-ETS Progress Report for services that will improve the ability to assess the quality of services for consumers and their progress in the service goals. In addition, DSB is working with NTACT:C to schedule training for staff on the new policy, forms, and regulations.

OIB

Field Services Quality Assurance Coordinator, Amy Jackson, will be attending the OIB Conference next week in Savannah, Georgia. As part of this conference, Amy Jackson will have the opportunity to learn best practices from other states and ideas to bring back to Arkansas to improve DSB's OIB program. DSB continues to work to find ways to stretch funding and grow the funding available for the OIB program.

OIB Services and Outcomes Update

DSB is currently serving 439 individuals in the OIB program. For Federal Fiscal Year 2022, from October 2021 until September 2022, DSB received 476 referrals to the OIB program and closed 81 cases successfully. For Federal Fiscal Year 2023, which began October 1, 2022, DSB has received 190 OIB referrals and closed 64 cases successfully. DSB continues to provide assessments, assistive technology devices and training, surgical and therapeutic treatment related to visual disabilities, orientation, and mobility training, daily living skills, and transportation as needed to our consumers. The largest service request continues to be for assistive technology devices and training on how to use the devices.

Old Business Section:

DSB Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment - Betsy Barnes:

DSB received the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Draft Report last week from the UALR Survey Research Center. DSB is currently reviewing the report. DSB plans to have the report ready to share with the Board at the June board meeting.

DSB Technology Lab Update- Gustavo Manzanales

Gustavo Manzanales stated that the Tech Lab has a steady flow of referrals from counselors across the state. Some clients that come in for training do not have any skills, so Mr. Manzanales stated the Tech Lab tries to work with them by starting clients out with typing. As skills improve, Mr. Manzanales tries to advance clients by using Jaws like a screen reader on a computer or any iOS device. The evaluation process is different for each client, so DSB makes sure to evaluate clients individually to ensure accuracy. Typically, consumers are asked to come into the Tech Lab for evaluation just in case the client has questions or needs further assistance. In-person visits allow equipment demonstration, and clients can choose the different options that are better suited for them. The community involvement includes working closely with Arkansas School for the Blind at the Braille Challenge in February 2023. At this event, Mr. Manzanales concentrated on braille technology for the theme. Mr. Manzanales displayed the “El-Braille”, a full Windows 10 device with braille support. In addition, to converting print into Braille using some of the apps and technology. Mr. Manzanales stated that ICAN is a good resource because the client can request a loan and test equipment out before deciding to recommend and spend money on specific devices. Mr. Manzanales stated that he works with NFB and ACB at the end of the month (March 2023). Mr. Manzanales was also asked to speak at the Blind Support Group in June 2023. The Tech Lab is caught up to date with software such as Jaws, ZoomText, and Fusion. Jaws is the screen reader, ZoomText is the magnifier, and Fusion is a combination of both. The Tech Lab equipment is also up to date and Mr. Manzanales works closely with vendors, and in return, DSB gets to have demo equipment in the Tech Lab, sometimes free of cost. The Tech Lab has been using its sister agencies like TAP, ICC, and ARS to facilitate equipment that a client may need that DSB cannot provide. Mr. Manzanales stated he will attend the CSUN conference later in the month, which is an international conference that displays and demonstrates mainstream technology from major manufacturers like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon and is held in California for all sorts of disabilities. This conference allows Mr. Manzanales to keep up with what is new and latest trends, in addition to network with actual vendors and getting ideas for the Tech Lab to do the job better, including evaluations and recommendations.

QA Unit – Sherlyn Harris

DSB's QA Unit has been restructured. The Statistician position has been moved to Field Services. Going forward, the monthly stats report as well as AWARE Request and Supervisor Closures will be completed by the Field Staff. This quarter QA is focusing on Customer Satisfaction Surveys. The QA unit has 2 vacant positions, an Administrative Specialist III and DSB Auditor. The DSB Auditor is working to make sure cases are thoroughly reviewed in a timely manner. QA will start doing fiscal reviews as well as case reviews.

AIRS Update – Theresa Bertram

Theresa Bertram updated the DSB Board concerning Arkansas Information Reading Services (AIRS). Ms. Bertram stated that listenership numbers remain steady according to ARPBS analytics at <http://airs.aetn.org>. AIRS averages approximately 2,400 listeners a week. AETN-4 Audio is accessible on television with local channels, and the platform has about 100 listeners weekly. AIRS Plus, which can be reached at (844)-888-0981, has approximately 300 listeners. Newline has approximately 300 listeners signed up with 40 to 50 loyal users. Information to join Newline is on nfb.org. AIRS Radio has 281 active followers on Facebook. AIRS is now on Alexa. The command is "Open AIRS Radio." New production music has been added to this service. Theresa Bertram noted that AIRS staff was going to different clubs including Lions Club to promote the program. AIRS also relies on DSB counselors to make consumers knowledgeable about AIRS services. Dr. Cassondra Williams-Stokes stated that counselors are sharing AIRS information with consumers and that print, or email notifications could be sent out to consumers as requested. New programs to include books are as follows: Being Seen: One Deafblind Woman's Fight to End Ableism, The Lions Share a History of Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind by Roy Kumpe and Jim Lester, We Never Die: Secrets of the Afterlife a book by Matt Fraser and Speak Up Arkansas—a podcast from Disability Rights Arkansas.

New Business Section:

WIOA Update- Megan Lamb:

Dr. Megan Lamb stated that the RSA II is compiled by using the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. The report categorizes expenditures by service category. For the same period of October 1, 2022, to

March 7, 2023, the expenses by service category were as follows: assessment was \$4,482.28; diagnosis and treatment \$272,190.10; training \$659,154.21; job services \$4,000.00; transportation \$58,246.42; maintenance \$69,508.06; rehabilitation technology \$116,463.19; supported employment \$6,158.00; reader services \$0; personal attendant services \$1,980.00; other services \$310,322.46; technical assistance \$580.00; customized employment \$4,000.00. Training category as follows: graduate college was \$13,195.00; four-year college \$199,662.59; junior college \$14,312.74; vocational \$42,923.10; on-the-job \$3,288.00; disability skills training \$103,957.17; and, miscellaneous (costs that were more specific to the consumer's individual needs) \$251,534.61; job readiness \$30,281.00. Job services are as follows: job search assistance \$0; job placement \$0; on-the-job support time-limited \$4,000.00.

Dr. Lamb explained that the RSA II not only outlines expenditures but identifies the number of actual participants who received each service. The services provided from October 1, 2022, to the present are listed in the following categories: assessment 12; diagnosis and treatment 152; graduate college 2; four-year college 38; junior college 8; vocational training 5; on-the-job training 2; disability skills training 21; miscellaneous training 22; job search assistance 0; job placement assistance 0; on-the-job supports time-limited 1; transportation 27; maintenance 17; rehabilitation technology 49; reader services 0; personal attendant services 1; other services 57; customized employment 2; job readiness training 6; and technical assistance 1.

An update on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) was presented. Dr. Megan Lamb stated that the program year 2022 contains two-quarters of the data. The program year runs from July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023. For the year 2022, there were 11 Measurable Skill Gains, 11 secondary report cards or post-secondary transcripts, rate of 11/151 is 7.3%. The target rate is 55.6%. The Measurable Skill Gains (MSG) Program Year 2021 there were 20 Measurable Skill Gains, 19 secondary report cards or post-secondary transcripts, and 1 secondary diploma. The rate of 20/134 is 14.9%. The target rate is 25.0%. A program year (PY) is divided from July 1 – June 30. The period used for reported performance measures is July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Performance Measures PY2022 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

- ▶ Measurable Skill Gains
 - ▶ Target Rate of 55.6%
- ▶ Credential Attainment
 - ▶ Cohort of exits from Jan – Dec 2022
 - ▶ Target Rate of 28.9%
- ▶ Employment Rate 2nd Quarter
 - ▶ Cohort of exits from PY2021
 - ▶ Target Rate of 60.5%

- ▶ Employment Rate 4th Quarter
 - ▶ Cohort of exits from Jan – Dec 2022
 - ▶ Target Rate 57.3%
- ▶ Retention with the Same Employer
 - ▶ Cohort of exits from PY2021
- ▶ Median Wages 2nd Quarter After Exit
 - ▶ Cohort of exits from PY2021
 - ▶ Target Rate \$5,697.00

2022 Credentials Earned

- ▶ Credentials Earned During PY
- ▶ 1 Master’s Degree
- ▶ Reported Credential Rate is 1/10 10%

2021 Credentials Comparison – 2 Quarters

- ▶ 6 Credentials
- ▶ 1 Vocational/Technical Certificate
- ▶ 1 Bachelor’s Degree
- ▶ 2 Master’s Degrees
- ▶ 2 “other” Certifications/Degrees
- ▶ No participants who exited Jan-Dec 2020 report a credential after the enrollment date in training with DSB.
- ▶ Reported Credential Rate is 0/7 0%

Employment Rate PY2022

- ▶ 2nd Quarter After Exit – 47 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (47/210) is 22%

- ▶ Target Rate is 60.5%
- ▶ 4th Quarter After Exit – 65 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (87/251) is 35%
- ▶ Target Rate is 57.3%
- ▶ Retention PY2022 (32/47) is 68.1%

National Credential Comparison Employment Rate PY 2021

- ▶ 2nd Quarter After Exit – 33 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (33/197) is 17%
- ▶ 4th Quarter After Exit – 57 Participants
- ▶ Employment Rate (57/225) is 25%
- ▶ Retention PY2021 is 59.57%
- ▶

2022 Employment Rate/Median Wages PY 2022

- ▶ At Exit - \$15.00 per hour
- ▶ 2nd Quarter After Exit - \$8,500.00
- ▶ Target Rate is \$5,697.00

2021 Employment Rate Comparison/Median Wages PY2021

- ▶ At Exit - \$14.00 per hour
- ▶ 2nd Quarter After Exit - \$7,262.69/quarter

Program Outcomes

- ▶ VR Program Year 2021 Closures (July 1, 2021 – June 2022)
 - 145 Closed - Rehabilitated
- ▶ VR Program Year 2022 Closures (July 1, 2022 – March 2023)
 - 102 Closed – Rehabilitated
- ▶ OIB Federal Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021 - September 2022)
 - 81 Closed - Goals Met
- ▶ OIB Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Closures (October 2022 – March 2023)
 - 64 Closed - Goals Met

VR and OIB Consumer Satisfaction Survey Process – Sherlyn Harris

Below are the steps to briefly walk through the process of mailing out the Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

Step 1 is compiling the client information. This process involves going into AWARE and pulling the consumer's intake information from the layout tab.

Step 2 is data analysis, which involves examining the information to ensure the data is correct. During the data analysis, one identifies the preferred method of communication, such as email, standard or large print, or Braille.

Step 3 is mailing out the surveys. When the letters are complete, they are given to Director Stokes to review and sign before mailing. DSB has a 30-day response time. The screen displays several pictures: letters, symbols for emails and braille, and large print. There is also a picture of a telephone. DSB does not make cold calls; however, if a consumer needs assistance with the survey, QA will assist by filling out the survey over the phone.

Step 4 is compiling the results. This step is a vital part of the process. DSB welcomes customer feedback for several reasons, such as information, insight, issues, and input the community shares about the experiences with DSB's services and products.

Negative and positive feedback provides a foundation for developing new ideas, brainstorming strategies to enhance customer satisfaction, improve performance, and facilitate change in policies. This slide shows a flow chart of the process and all the steps in more detail. The African American lady wearing dark glasses and holding the white cane represents a satisfied consumer. The iPad at the bottom of the screen lists some of the ways counselors assist the consumers, such as advocacy, encouragement, coaching, advising, supporting, and guidance. The last slide displays the heart of DSB.

Mission – enhances the independence of blind and visually impaired Arkansans.

Vision - inform consumers of their rights and provide the resources needed to live independently.

Values – compassion, courage, respect, integrity, and trust are the foundation of the agency.

Beliefs – to show confidence in our consumers, empower their choices, provide the services they need to seek gainful employment, and work with families and the community to help them succeed.

Annual Approval of Specific Board Member Expenses-

Chairman Clark asked for a motion to approve annual expenditures for specific board member expenses for the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year. Tyrone Williams made a motion to approve the board members’ expenses. Erika Evans seconded, and the motion carried.

DSB Field Services Policy Approval-

Chairman Clark asked for a motion to approve the changes to the DSB Field Services Policies for chapters 1-6, 13, and 15. David Henry made the motion to approve all chapters of the DSB Field Services Policies. Tyrone Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

FAIRS Update-Larry Wayland

Mr. Wayland said that the Newline Plus and the broadcast purposes are to keep people included and informed on what is going on around them. It is important to let people know what is going on in their communities, especially those who are disabled. Mr. Wayland stated that FAIRS has resumed going out to speak to Lion’s Clubs around the state, in addition to asking for donations. Mr. Wayland stated Theresa Bertram is pretty good about telling the history of Arkansas and that FAIRS is up to 500 publications around the country on Newline Plus. Mr. Wayland stated he and Theresa Bertram will be attending the Transition Fair next week, hoping to meet several parents and inform them about FAIRS as well.

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

OIB Report- Sandra Edwards

Sandra Edwards was not present. A written report was provided to Board Members prior to the meeting.

Disability Rights Arkansas (DRA) – Tom Masseur was not present on his behalf

Molly Hernandez with the Client Assistance Program (CAP) provided a report. Molly Hernandez started by thanking DSB for providing a Zoom option for those who cannot attend the DSB Quarterly Board Meetings in person, and that it was helpful and very convenient. Ms. Hernandez also stated that the Client Assistance Program is currently assisting two (2) consumers of DSB. Also, Ms. Hernandez

said she would be attending the Transition Fair at the School for the Blind next week, adding that, the DRA will be involved in the 2023 NFB State Convention as well. Lastly, Ms. Hernandez requested that the DSB policy changes also be emailed to the Client Assistance Program (CAP) for their file updates-

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

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

Consumer Input:

Theresa Petrey stated that Arkansas Council of the Blind annual state convention will be held on April 28th – 29th, at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Little Rock and extended the invitation for anyone interested to attend. Also, the National Leadership Legislative Conference in Washington D. C. to work on imperative benefits for the blind may be something else others may be interested in as well, it will be in Alexandria, VA. This conference will focus on audio description, fitness, and learning to do several things of that statute as independently as possible.

Schedule of Next Meeting:

Chairman Keith Clark stated the next board meeting will be held in Little Rock, AR on June 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Keith Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Erika Evans seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURNED at 2:44 P.M.