



## Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council

500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor PO Box 94987 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4987

"A consumer-controlled council committed to ensuring quality rehabilitation services."

### SRC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lonnie Berger, Jodi Bodnar, Crystal Booker, Michael Bursaw, Jeremy Daffern, Gloria Eddins, Jana Egan, Sharon Elliott, Lindy Foley, Jason Gieschen, Catrina Gray, Gayle Hahn, Theresa Hayes, Tobias Orr, Diane Owen-Downs

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andrew Barritt, Matthew Kaslon, Lisa Kent-Scheer

**NEBRASKA VR STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Chapin, Holly Enriquez, Angela Fujan, Mary Matusiak, Shawn Roberts, Lupe Stevens

**VISITORS:** Margie Propp, Ben Sparks

I. Approval of Agenda

Gloria Eddins moved to approve the agenda. Crystal Booker seconded. Roll call vote taken. Motion passed.

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Gloria Eddins moved to approve the minutes. Gayle Hahn seconded. Verbal vote taken. Motion passed.

III. Council Membership:

New/potential members: None at this time.

Terms ending:

Lonnie expressed appreciation for outgoing members, Mike Bursaw, Gayle Hahn, and Diane Owen-Downs for serving on the SRC Council and for their representation. They are each welcome to come back after a year off. Mike, Gayle, and Diane each received their plaques and reported that it has been a pleasure serving. Angela expressed her appreciation for everyone's contribution.

In 2024, there will be several members' terms ending including Crystal, Theresa, Lonnie and Jeremy. Lonnie provided a recruitment reminder and that the SRC will be looking to the leadership of the future. Members are in a constant state of recruiting and retention. It takes a strong commitment to participate in the SRC. A discussion

followed regarding the member roles that will be left open. Angela reminded the group of the required positions that must be filled. Theresa reported that she has a new member lined up to replace her when her term is complete.

#### IV. ACTION — Follow-up to action items from last meeting:

##### A. October Employment Awards & Location (Lonnie and Mary)

Nominations were completed and winners were selected for 4 out of 5 categories; Mary pointed out that there is not always a Champion award given. Winners selected are:

Pioneer Animal Clinic--New Business Partnership  
CVS Health--New Business Partnership  
Josh Beck, Countryside Gunsmithing LLC--Entrepreneur Award  
Alliance Grocery Kart--Small Business Recognition  
Nebraska Department of Transportation--Large Business Recognition

It was noted that Josh Beck, owner of Countryside Gunsmithing LLC, exceeded his business goals by 32%.

Recognition to each employer will be given at the SRC DEI Awards in October at the new NDE location at 500 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street. The planning for the awards event is progressing nicely. Governor Pillen will be attending and coordinating a tour of the new space was discussed.

##### B. Election of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Chairs)

Lonnie brought up that he cannot serve as an officer and that this would be an appropriate time for others to volunteer for serving. Angela explained that the Executive Committee meets about 3 weeks prior to the SRC meeting for about an hour to review the agenda and follow-up with members who are not attending meetings.

Crystal nominated Gloria for SRC Chair and Jeremy as SRC Vice Chair, nominations seconded by Gayle. Verbal vote taken. Motion unanimously passed.

Additional representatives for the Executive Committee include:

- Transition Committee Chair – Sharon Elliott
- Client Services Committee Chair – Jodi Bodnar
- Employment Committee will select their Chair next meeting

#### V. Discussion:

##### A. Senator's Outreach Update (Sarah)

Sarah gave an update of how Senator's Outreach has been handled in the past and how effective it was. A discussion ensued regarding a SRC booth in the rotunda of the

Capitol, having a Senator panel discussion, and/or attending the Capitol with information and snacks to do face-to-face meetings. It was noted that reaching out to the Senators by email followed up by hosting a table in the rotunda, inviting the Senators, would be meaningful and would provide the opportunity to highlight the work the SRC does. Crystal committed to be a part of the in-person event in February. It was decided to table the discussion until October's meeting. Members were asked to consider attending the in-person Senator Outreach event in February.

#### B. Member Feedback on Written Reports:

1. ATP (Tobias Orr) See attached ATP report.

2. CAP (Jodi Bodnar)

See attached CAP report. Jodi reported on 2 cases being referred to CAP, attending a conference, and outreach to the Grand Island and Hastings offices. Jodi is participating in the Inclusion Diversity and Equity Committee that is meeting to discuss how clients are served.

3. Deaf & Hard of Hearing (Jeremy Daffern)

NCDHH has a new Executive Director that is really focused on children. There are many changes happening. NCDHH sponsored Disability Pride and paid for interpreters to be at the event. Gloria expressed her appreciation for the NCDHH sponsorship.

4. NSILC (Matt Kaslon)

Gloria reported that SILC was at Disability Pride and that they were a great help to the event.

5. Ombudsman (No report)

6. Youth Leadership Council (report only)

#### C. Member Feedback on Nebraska VR (Chair) Nothing to report.

#### D. Director Report (Lindy Foley)

National: Lindy reports that during monitoring Nebraska VR has 4 findings for corrective action including 2 program findings and 2 fiscals. She is pleased with the progress made and 2 of the corrective actions have been closed. Lindy brought up that we are losing clients between application and signing a plan. A discussion was had regarding reasons for losing clients before they got to the plan and ways to keep them engaged.

Lindy expressed her appreciation for the SRC partnership and to the outgoing members for their commitment to serve.

Regional: Lindy discussed changes to the Supported Employment Program. Regardless of funding, she wants Nebraska VR to build on DD and Behavioral Health partnerships. Lindy made a call to action for providing timely and quality services to clients. The dashboard in QE2 was discussed where staff can see their own data as well as regional and statewide data.

Local: Really focused on staff engagement. Lindy reported that 50 positions have been filled and there is a dozen open at this time. Lindy and administrators are conducting Stay Interviews, asking staff what makes them consider leaving Nebraska VR. They are looking for patterns. Lindy is doing virtual check-ins with new staff.

VI. Committee meetings and reports:

A. Client Services Committee (Matt)

Holly reported that they will add more data on the Client Satisfaction Surveys. Associates will call clients in another service area to avoid talking to a client that they know. A discussion ensued regarding questions that could be changed or added to the survey to get useful information about services and why clients are not making it to plan.

B. Employer Services Committee (Lonnie)

Lonnie discussed plans for the SRC DEI Awards Event in October. Award videos are in the process of being made and will be posted to social media throughout October. Lindy brought up that it is the expectation for offices to nominate business partners for the SRC DEI awards and that there should not be a shortage of nominations. It was noted that a former Champion Award winner, David Scott, who had a passion to serve passed away.

C. Transition Services Committee (Gloria)

There was discussion about how to follow-up with PreETS clients one year after graduation and engaging them in Nebraska VR services as adults.

D. Executive Committee (Chair) Nothing to report.

VII. Public Comment/Announcements None

VIII. Future SRC Meetings (10:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.):

October 3, 2023: SRC DEI Awards Ceremony (in-person 500 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln)



Lincoln 3901 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 5, 68521 Fax (402) 471-6052  
Kearney 315 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, 68845 Fax (308) 865-5322  
Omaha 1313 Farnam Street, Suite 305, 68102 Fax (402) 595-1919  
Columbus 3100 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 5, 68601 Fax (402) 564-7995  
Scottsbluff 505 A Broadway, Suite 500, 69361 Fax (308) 632-1392  
Phone (877) 713-4002 [www.atp.nebraska.gov](http://www.atp.nebraska.gov) [atp@nebraska.gov](mailto:atp@nebraska.gov)

## August 2023 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

### Marketing-Nancy Noha

Everyone has been working at updating our address:  
500 S 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68510-2611  
Mailing address: PO Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

ATP exhibited at:  
**Nebraska Disability Pride Celebration, Leading for Change**  
**Saturday, July 22, 2023, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**  
Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park, 1650 Memorial Drive, Lincoln, NE



### **SCHEDULE**

10:00am - *Opening Remarks*  
10:30am - *Tribute to Judy Heumann*  
11:00am - *Miss Amazing Performance*  
11:30am - *Service Dog Demonstration*  
12:00pm (noon) - *Dancing Beyond Limits Performance*  
12:30pm - *Belly Dancers*  
1:00pm - *Speakers – Having Pride*  
1:50pm - *Closing Remarks*



### **Resource Coordination/Financial Programs – Angie Ransom**

ATP staff has worked on updating and focusing on wording for the resource letter. The goal is to outline the funding coordination process and differentiate for consumers the partners we work directly with, like Nebraska VR, and others that may be national programs. The resource letter is generated after receiving a Service and Device application. If a request for funding coordination comes from Nebraska VR, the consumer will receive a letter that highlights potential funding options. ATP is not the direct funding source so coordination and collaboration with programs that they potentially meet eligibility criteria will be provided to the individual.

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant**

The EFG program is right on track this year. The new application for 2024 is out and will be submitted soon.

### **DHHS Program – May Faith [4/1/23 through 6/30/23]**

During the second quarter of 2023, 146 projects were authorized, utilizing \$1,082,578.23 in AD Waiver funding, and 4 DD projects were authorized, utilizing \$10,625.00. These projects assisted 130 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers continued to remain high throughout the second quarter. The ATP HHS/DD program has received approval to hire one additional Technology Specialist and that position will be posting in the near future to help reduce wait times for consumers. A note remains on the Service Coordinator referral webpage advising that the HHS/DD team is currently 50 days out before being able to reach out to schedule assessments on new referrals.

### **Education – Brian Wojcik**

The ATP Education Program continues technical assistance to members of IEP and IFSP teams across the state. These include a series of webinars, book studies, and online learning cohorts through the ATP Education Academy.

As we are in the summer, the ATP Education Program team has welcomed a new cohort of AT Cadre Members and is currently recruiting AT Cadre Coaches for the 2023-24 school year. We are also planning to offer a version of the AT Cadre specific to and in conjunction with the Omaha Public Schools. We continue development work on a series of online self-paced courses that are being developed for parents, guardians, and families with support from the Nebraska Council on Development Disabilities and another series is being developed for IFSP Teams in cooperation with the Early Development Network. Both sets of courses focus on aspects of assistive technology and assistive technology services for children and students receiving special education services in Nebraska. Our partnership with the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Learning Center also allows us to offer free professional development to all Nebraskans on a wide variety of assistive technology topics (over 210 different online courses). To register for access to this learning resource, please link to <https://atp.nebraska.gov/services/atia-learning-center-professional-development>.



### **iCanConnect Program Update- Brooke Harrie**

The iCanConnect (iCC) Program is also known as the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program. This is a nationwide program that provides telecommunication equipment and training to low-income individuals with significant hearing and vision loss. There are currently 4 active Nebraska iCC cases, with 1 person who is completing the iCC application process.

The iCC Program Supervisor presented to the DOTS (Disability Organizations Together Serve) group on April 11<sup>th</sup>. At this presentation the iCC Program and other ATP services were discussed with the group of about 20 members who work in local organizations that serve people with disabilities. The Nebraska iCC program also celebrated Deaf Blind Awareness Week from June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> by sending out mailings to doctor's offices, hospitals, assisted living centers and other community partners, trying to get the word out about the iCanConnect Program.

### **Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie**

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 71 service requests from 4/8/2023 to 7/11/2023. Of those 71 service requests, 13 were for new and/or existing VR staff members. Technology Specialists provide all VR staff members ergonomic assessments of their workstations as well as training on the VR/ATP partnership. Of the additional service requests received, 2 were for Pre-ETS and 54 were for adult VR clients and the additional 2 were for CPAP clients. The 71 service requests received were for the following equipment: cognitive aids (17), ergonomics (15), vehicle modifications and repairs (12), hearing devices (3), mobility devices and repairs (4), ADLs (2), worksite modifications (15), entrance modifications (1), bathroom modifications (1), and bicycle (1).

For the past 3 months, ATP Technology Specialists have been working with Project SEARCH sites to wrap up the current school year and select interns for the incoming class. A new Technology Specialist joined the team on May 8<sup>th</sup> and her name is Hannah Wieser. She is officing out of the Norfolk VR office, covering both the Norfolk and Columbus service areas, and has been a great addition to the team. The ATP Program Supervisor has also been busy with outreach, presenting to Life Skills Educators at a training in Crete on June 1<sup>st</sup> and at the Nebraska Career & Technical Education staff meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **General Update -Tobias Orr**

This past June we brought in all ATP staff to Lincoln for a 2 day training. This training gave the team a chance to work on updating the ATP mission statement, learn more about each other's programs, and see demonstrations from various vehicle mod and technology vendors.

The new Lincoln VR/ATP office on the first floor of 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> is almost complete. We are scheduled to be moved in by 9/1/2023. The new office will give us access to more conference space, a more efficient use of square footage, and easier access to NDE and the Nebraska VR program team.

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) welcomes their new executive director, Arlene Gunderson. Arlene has more than ten years of administrative experience as well as backgrounds in teaching, training, and mentoring in K-12 and higher education. Her personal strength is in strategic planning, setting priorities and managing budgets based on identified goals to lead programs and services. Arlene has made leadership contributions to various community organizations because she feels authentic grass root networking, inter-community resource building, and advocacy are the best way to support diverse, multicultural individuals and enable everyone's fullest potential.

Arlene was the first Person of Color to serve as the president of the national American Sign Language Teachers Association, serving two terms on top of several years of being on the Board. Arlene values lifelong learning and is dedicated to broadening understanding and sensitivity to the needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, Deaf-Plus (Disabled) and BIPOC populations, their families and service providers/professionals who works with them.

As of today, NCDHH is going through many changes and revamping their mission and vision statements, along with possible creating more services toward deaf youth and their families.

As for the activities with NCDHH, there is a national night out in Scottsbluff on August 1, 2023, and Susan will be working at booth out there. Also there will have a deaf/hard of hearing awareness day at Riverside Discovery Center in Scottsbluff on September 9.



NYLC was created “by youth for youth”. We are leaders and self-advocates who experience a disability. We travel the state promoting disability awareness and educating our peers on transitioning to college or work

**NYLC SRC Report July 2023**

**April 1 – July 1, 2023 NYLC events.**

Our biggest event during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023 was the NYLC Leadership Conference. Our theme this year was “Telling My Story.” Speakers included, Tasha Schuh as keynote speaker, Samantha Jacobson, former NYLC member, Jessica Miller, FEAT/PTI and myself. We also used video to share our own stories of self-advocacy as part of the days events.

NYLC welcomed two new members during this quarter. The NE Region welcomed Matthew Koehlmoos of O’Neill and the East Region welcomed Stephanie Kaup of Omaha.

Each region is taking a turn at hosting NYLC Thursday Thread. The youth can host by sharing their own stories of self-advocacy, by bringing in a speaker, highlighting an agency that supports people with disability or by playing a virtual game. The West and Northeast Regions have each hosted a Thursday Thread. They will do so again in the fall.

**Thursday Thread Virtual Meeting- dates/agenda items:**

Date	Members Attending	Activity
April 6	6	Everyday Self Advocacy
May 4	5	Hosted by West Region: Played Kahoot Star Wars Trivia
May 18	7	Celebrated End of School, Played Family Feud Teacher Life Questions
June 1	6	Hearing stories from other youth with disability
June	29	Hosted by NE Region: Played Balderdash, Weird Words

**NYLC Presentations/Out-reach**

Date	Members Attending	What
April 19	2	Job Expo, Hosted by ESU 13, Scottsbluff
April 19	3	NYLC West Region Meeting, Alliance
May 6	1	Project Search, Lincoln, NE
June 3	3	NYLC NE Region Meeting – Columbus
June 23-24	8	NYLC Leadership Conference, Kearney



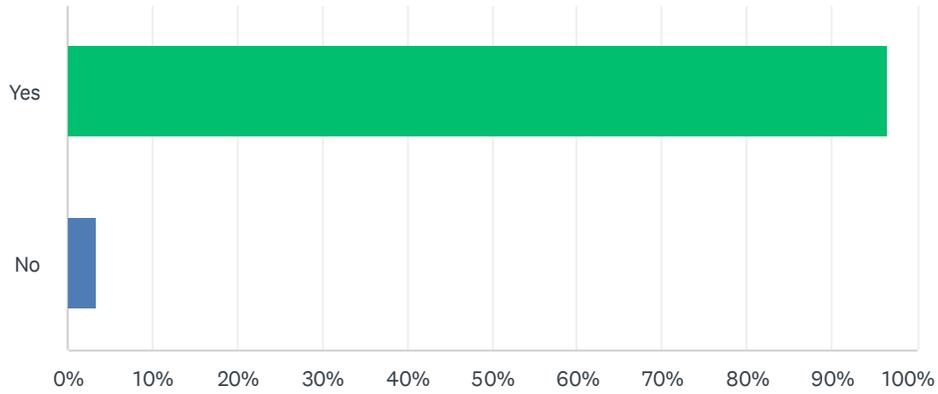
NYLC Leadership Conference Attendees and Tasha Schuh, Keynote Speaker

## Client Satisfaction Survey Quarter 3 2022/2023 YTD Comparison

	FY21-22 Quarter 3 YTD	FY22-23 Quarter 3 YTD
<b>Surveys Completed</b>	266	145
<b>% Still Employed</b>	94.74%	96.55%
<b>Why Not Employed</b>	Quit – 57.14% Laid off- 21.43% Fired- 21.43%	Quit – 80% Laid Off- 20%
<b>Job Meets Current Needs</b>	94.38%	93.57%
<b>Most Helpful Service</b>	Encouragement Support 59.77% Supported Employment 44.36% Employment Services 34.21%	Encouragement support 78.62% Employment Services 43.45% Assitive Technology 31.72%
<b>Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member</b>	95.11%	97.24%

# Q1 Are you currently employed?

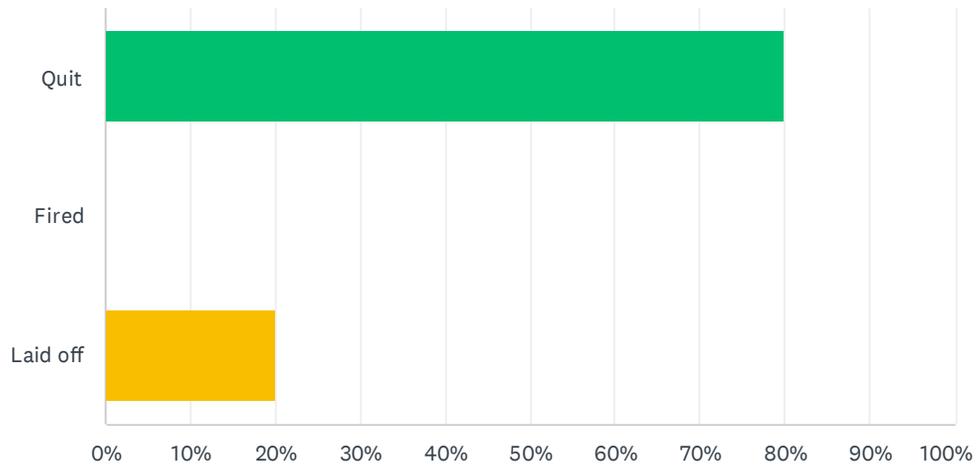
Answered: 145 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	96.55%	140
No	3.45%	5
TOTAL		145

## Q2 If not, did you quit, were you fired or laid off?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 140



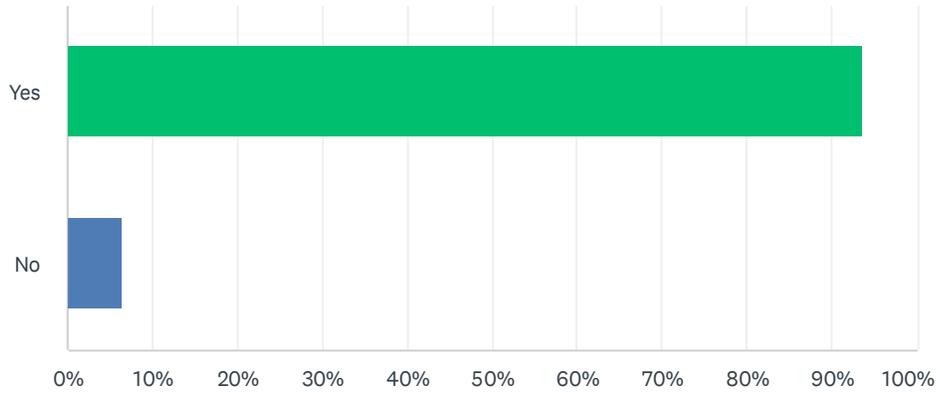
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Quit	80.00% 4
Fired	0.00% 0
Laid off	20.00% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

### Q3 What is the name of your employer?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 5

### Q4 Does your job meet your current needs?

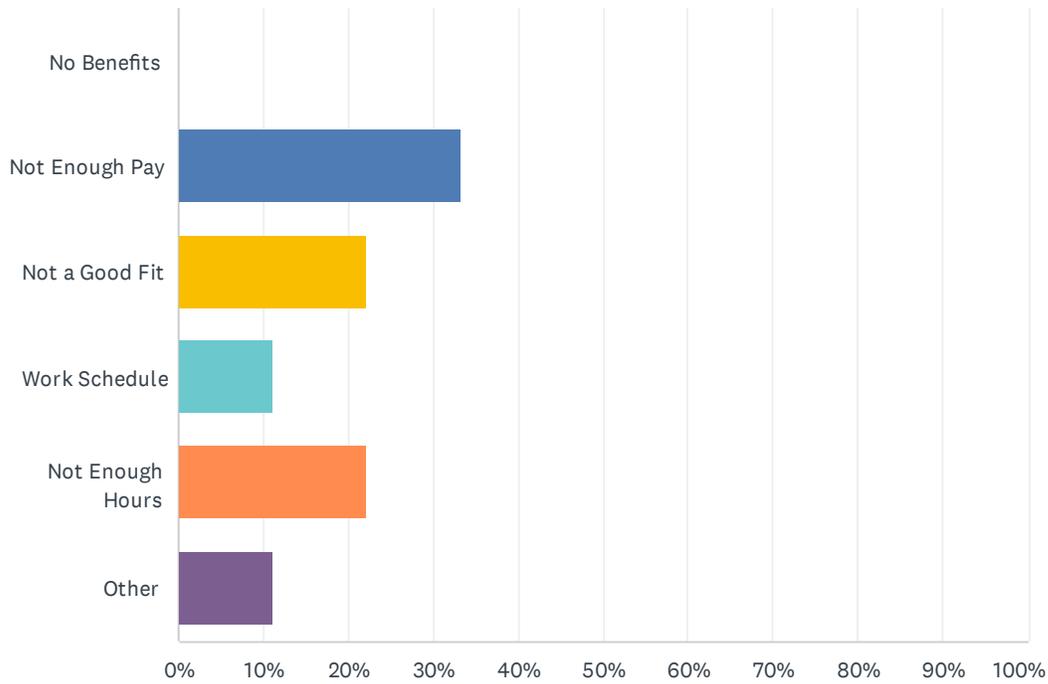
Answered: 140 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.57%	131
No	6.43%	9
TOTAL		140

## Q5 If no, what needs are not being met by your job?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 136



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No Benefits	0.00% 0
Not Enough Pay	33.33% 3
Not a Good Fit	22.22% 2
Work Schedule	11.11% 1
Not Enough Hours	22.22% 2
Other	11.11% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

## Q6 Please specify the need not being met that was not listed.

Answered: 1 Skipped: 144

### Q7 Can you tell me why you (quit)?

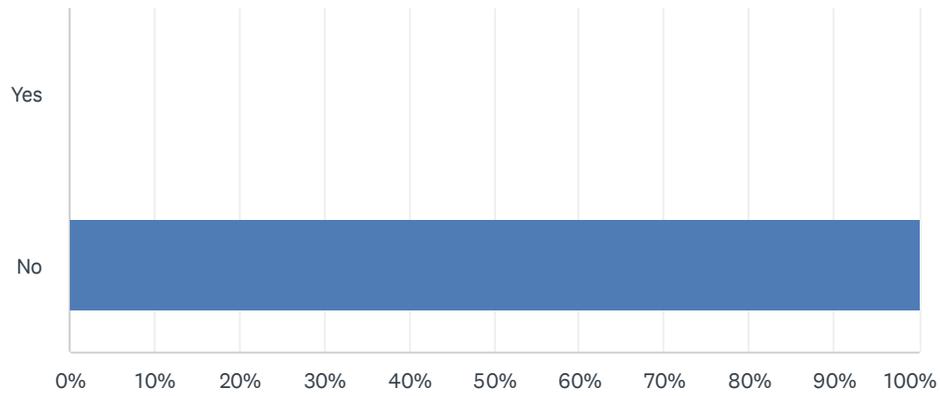
Answered: 4 Skipped: 141



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Benefits	0.00%	0
Better Job	0.00%	0
Day Care	0.00%	0
Disability Interfered	0.00%	0
Hospitalized or Illness (Not disability related)	0.00%	0
Housing	0.00%	0
Not Enough Pay	0.00%	0
Not a Good Fit	0.00%	0
Returned to college	0.00%	0
Transportation	0.00%	0
Work Schedule	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
COVID19	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	100.00%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4</b>

## Q8 Were you laid off due to COVID19

Answered: 5 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	0.00%	0
No	100.00%	5
TOTAL		5

## Q9 Please describe Not a Good Fit

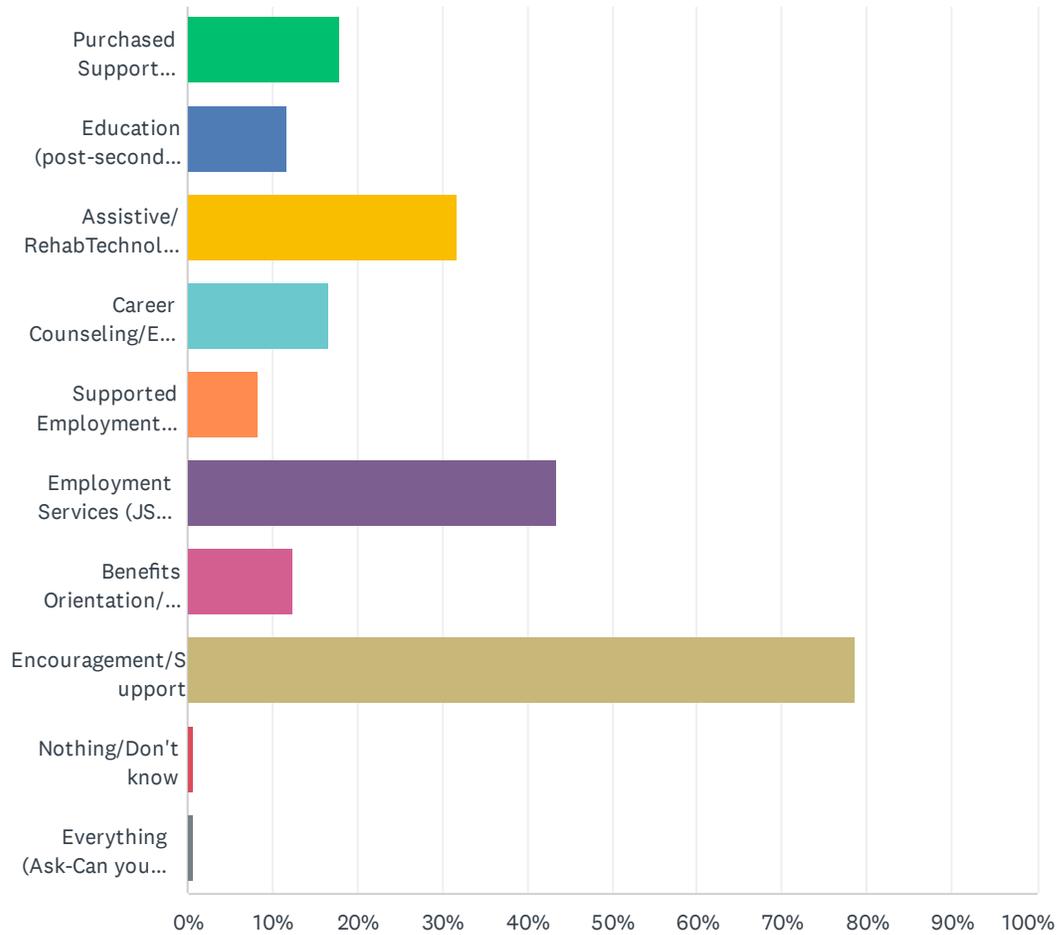
Answered: 2 Skipped: 143

**Q10 Please state hourly wage and how many hours you are/were working per week?**

Answered: 138 Skipped: 7

### Q11 What did Nebraska VR provide that was most helpful to you? Mark the categories the client indicated were the most helpful.

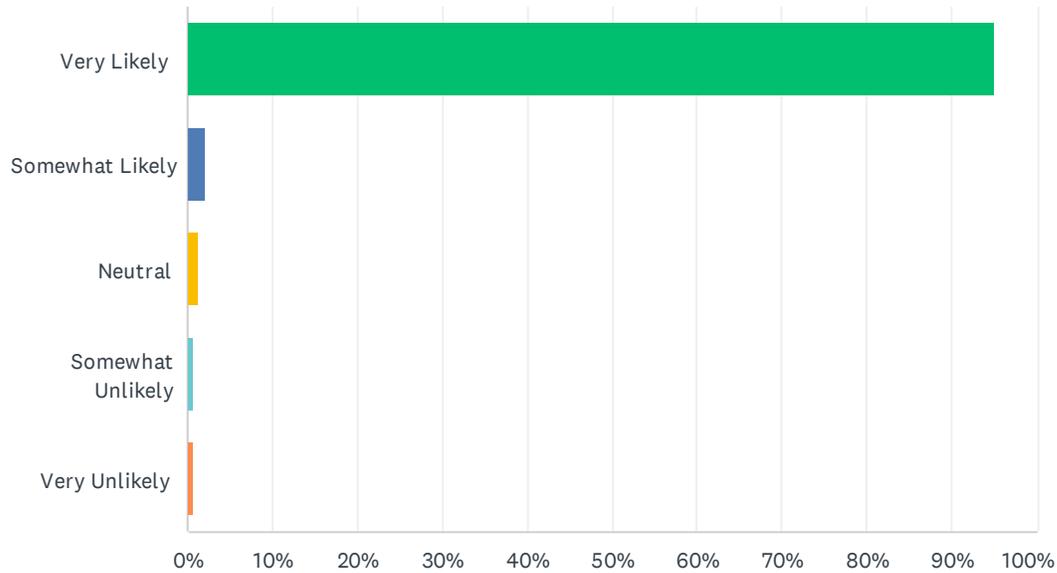
Answered: 145 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)	17.93%	26
Education (post-secondary training)	11.72%	17
Assistive/ RehabTechnology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods)	31.72%	46
Career Counseling/Evaluation (Career planning, vocational evaluation, etc.)	16.55%	24
Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc. )	8.28%	12
Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)	43.45%	63
Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis	12.41%	18
Encouragement/Support	78.62%	114
Nothing/Don't know	0.69%	1
Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)	0.69%	1
Total Respondents: 145		

## Q12 How likely are you to recommend Vocational Rehabilitation to a friend or family member who experiences a disability?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Likely	95.17%	138
Somewhat Likely	2.07%	3
Neutral	1.38%	2
Somewhat Unlikely	0.69%	1
Very Unlikely	0.69%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>145</b>

## Q13 Please share why you are very unlikely, somewhat unlikely and neutral

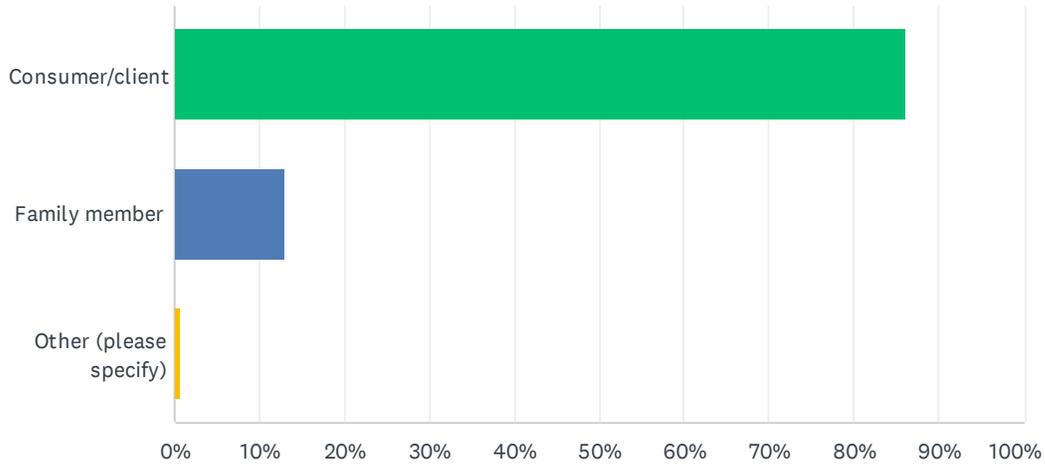
Answered: 4 Skipped: 141

Q14 Please share any other comments or suggestions you may have.

Answered: 119 Skipped: 26

### Q15 Who did you talk with?

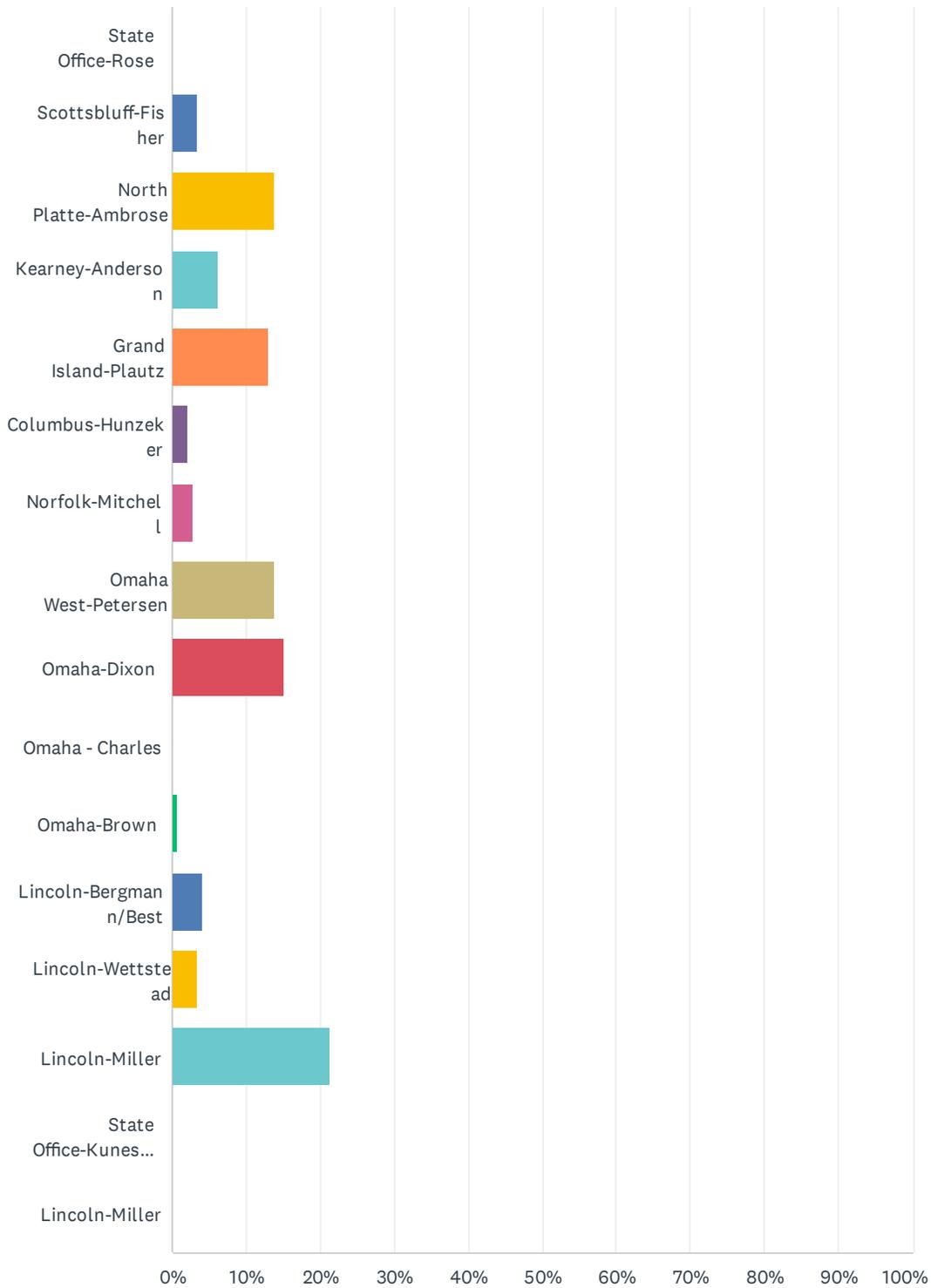
Answered: 145 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Consumer/client	86.21%	125
Family member	13.10%	19
Other (please specify)	0.69%	1
Total Respondents: 145		

# Q16 Which VR Team served this client?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
State Office-Rose	0.00%	0
Scottsbluff-Fisher	3.45%	5
North Platte-Ambrose	13.79%	20
Kearney-Anderson	6.21%	9
Grand Island-Plautz	13.10%	19
Columbus-Hunzeker	2.07%	3
Norfolk-Mitchell	2.76%	4
Omaha West-Petersen	13.79%	20
Omaha-Dixon	15.17%	22
Omaha - Charles	0.00%	0
Omaha-Brown	0.69%	1
Lincoln-Bergmann/Best	4.14%	6
Lincoln-Wettstead	3.45%	5
Lincoln-Miller	21.38%	31
State Office-Kunes-Neary	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>145</b>



**State Rehabilitation Council**  
**Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report**  
August 2023

- 
- Two new CAP cases this quarter, none closed:
    - o Client interested in SE felt discriminated due to religion. Client was interested in an unaccredited training to support his business. Client decided on transferring to a new counselor at a new office. Resolved and VR case closed prior to IPE per the client.
    - o Case regarding TWE quality of service. Family concerned about communication with VR and job coach to make changes in approaches timely to bolster TWE.
  
  - CAP attended National Disability Rights Network conference in June. This will help develop a more effective outreach plan and provide CAP orientation to CAP staff. VR office visits are being scheduled now. CAP has provided at least 2 new hire staff trainings.
  
  - Website update started put on hold a little while completing outreach. Updated letterhead and presentations with CAP logo
  
  - Updated CAP release of information; added re-release and revocation sections. Sending via adobe sign, when possible, to expedite process of collaborating with VR staff.
  
  - Attending monthly CAP community of practice meetings to collaborate and learn from other CAPs around the US.
  
  - Met virtually with Washington CAP staff to learn about their goals, workload, and overall progress. They have quarterly meetings within their region. Trends: explain process to new VR staff, counselor transfer vs. counselor leaving policies, new staff floater position in each region.
  
  - CAP staff has been included in discussions about training modules for new staff, informed choice education for clients and the CAP chapter policy/procedure (record access).
  
  - CAP staff is a part of the Nebraska VR Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee.