

## February 2024 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

### Marketing-Nancy Noha

Our web site is being transferred to a new platform. We have noticed some problems and omissions as the transition takes place. We appreciate your patience until the transfer is complete.

We continue to update our office address on web site resource listings after moving last year.

ATP has utilized numerous strategies to recruit contractors during 2023. We are hitting the road in 2024 with magnetic signs on some of ATP's state vehicles. May Faith, Program Supervisor (left) and Elizabeth Lamborn, Accounting/Contractor Recruitment, installed a sign on the van located in Lincoln. Elizabeth's phone number is listed on all the marketing, She explains the application process to contractors wanting more information.





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

ATP resource coordination continues to process Service and Device applications statewide. ATP is looking to add individuals to the advisory council. Please contact Angie Ransom at [angie.ransom@nebraska.gov](mailto:angie.ransom@nebraska.gov) or 402-309-0374. A link to the application can be found on ATP's website at [www.atp.nebraska.gov](http://www.atp.nebraska.gov).

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant**

ATP was pleased to receive an award of Enrichment Foundation Grant funding for 2024. We received \$200,000 in grant funding to use for projects in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. A waitlist was carried over from FY 2023 and those individuals will be contacted for possible projects in 2024. Of the 46 projects completed in 2023, eight Nebraska VR clients utilized EFG funding. Those projects included vehicle modifications (4), entrance modifications (2), activities of daily living (1), and interior lift (1). ATP Program Staff Brooke Harrie assigned these NE VR projects to technology specialists.

### **DHHS Program – May Faith [9/8/23 through 12/31/23]**

During the fourth quarter of 2023, 189 projects were authorized, utilizing \$1,483,920.65 in AD Waiver funding, and 11 DD projects were authorized, utilizing \$87,737.18. These projects assisted 169 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers continued to remain high throughout the remainder of the third quarter and all of the fourth quarter of 2023. The newest Technology Specialist began working on some smaller projects which helped spread the caseloads out a bit and reduce some assessment wait times. A note remains on the Service Coordinator referral webpage advising that the HHS/DD team continues to be 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. We currently have 38 participants engaged in the *Comprehensive Literacy for All* Book Study. The Nebraska ATP Education Program is also working with AT3 on an Education Peer Assisted Learning Project to help other state Tech-Act Projects and State Education Agencies work together to increase high-quality AT services to children and students with disabilities receiving education services.

Furthermore, the ATP Education Program has seen increased activity of the ATP Education Program Statewide Loan Pool or [EDUCATION.AT4ALL.COM](http://EDUCATION.AT4ALL.COM). As of December 13, 2023, we are 74% of the total loans made in FY 23 (N=469). Since 7/1/2023, we have loaned out \$240,969.07 worth of equipment to determine AT needs of students, short-term accommodations, or professional development (Non-ATP Education Staff Borrowed). In addition, since 7/1/2023, ATP Education Staff have showcased/demonstrated/provided training on 429 items (value of \$120,473.44) for professional development purposes.

The ATP Education program is looking to hire a new Equipment manager to oversee the ATP Education Loan Pool



### **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 3 active Nebraska iCC cases, with 1 person who is completing the iCC application process. One applicant who applied this past quarter was determined to be ineligible based on not meeting the programs definition of vision loss.

The iCC Program Supervisor is working to start the annual audit for the last fiscal year. Staff has been presenting to various groups across the state and discussing the iCC program to continue focusing on outreach. Also, Nebraska recently had a past iCC client interviewed and their story will be featured on the national iCC website later this month, putting on display the great work and services this program provides to those who are eligible.

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

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 74 service requests from 9/07/2023 to 1/03/2024. Of those 74 service requests, 17 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, 6 was for Pre-ETS including 5 Project SEARCH interns, 47 were for adult VR clients and 4 were for CPAP clients. The 74 service requests received were for the following equipment: ADL equipment (1), cognitive aids (15), ergonomics (29), vehicle modifications and repairs (7), hearing devices (2), mobility devices and repairs (3), communication devices (2), computer/software (1), worksite AT (10), DME (1), entrance modifications (1), bathroom modifications (1), and vision devices (1).

The ATP Program Supervisor has been busy with presentations this quarter. Presentations regarding ATP services were completed to different groups including the Nebraska Association of Service Providers, Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network and United Spinal Association of Nebraska. Presentations to groups of clients also occurred including Holy Cow What Now in Norfolk, presentations to various Project SEARCH classes in the Omaha area and an escape room style presentation to Pre-ETS students at the ESU 3 Job Expo in La Vista.

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

The Lincoln ATP team is settling into their new office. Now that the move is over the team is working on putting together the new Demonstration Center. Along with this we are looking at updating our equipment inventory so that what we have better represents assistive technology that is currently on the market.



State Rehabilitation Council  
Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report  
OCT NOV DEC 2023

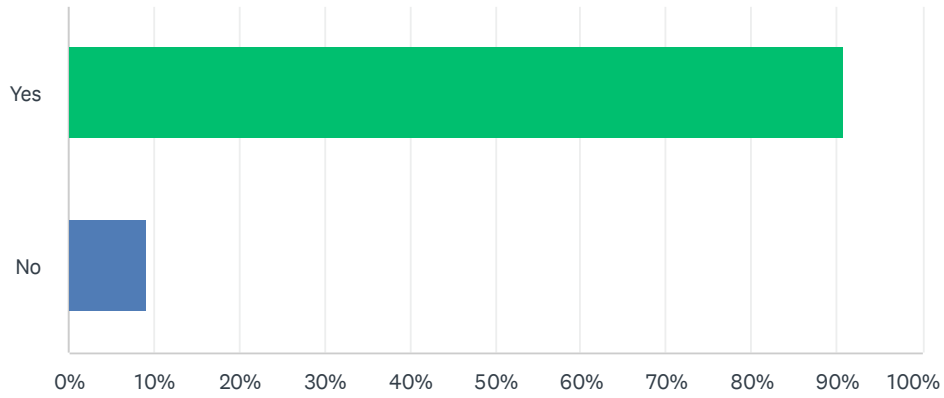
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- Currently 8 CAP cases all in resolution for this quarter. At least 3/8 planned to close next quarter as resolved cases and one due to no contact. More detailed report regarding 3 closures to be discussed next quarter.
  - CAP cases are starting to grow as 2 new cases have been presented this month.
  - Completed 8 in person and virtual CAP presentations this quarter to about 150-160 VR staff members.
  - Update on RSA 227 report

## Client Satisfaction Survey Quarter 1 2023/2024 YTD Comparison

|   | FY22-23 Quarter 1 YTD  | FY23-24 Quarter 4 YTD  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Surveys Completed</b>  | 44   | 33   |
| <b>% Still Employed</b>   | 97.73%   | 90.91%   |
| <b>Why Not Employed</b>   | Quit - 100%  | Fired- 33.33%<br>Laid Off- 66.67%  |
| <b>Job Meets Current Needs</b>  | 97.67%   | 93.33%   |
| <b>Most Helpful Service</b>   | Encouragement Support<br>90.91%<br>Employment Services<br>47.73%<br>Assistive/Rehab Technology<br>38.64% | Supported Employment<br>80.65%<br>Encouragement/Support<br>58.06%<br>Benefits Orientation/Analysis<br>32.26% |
| <b>Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member</b> | 100%   | 96.97%   |

# Q1 Are you currently employed?

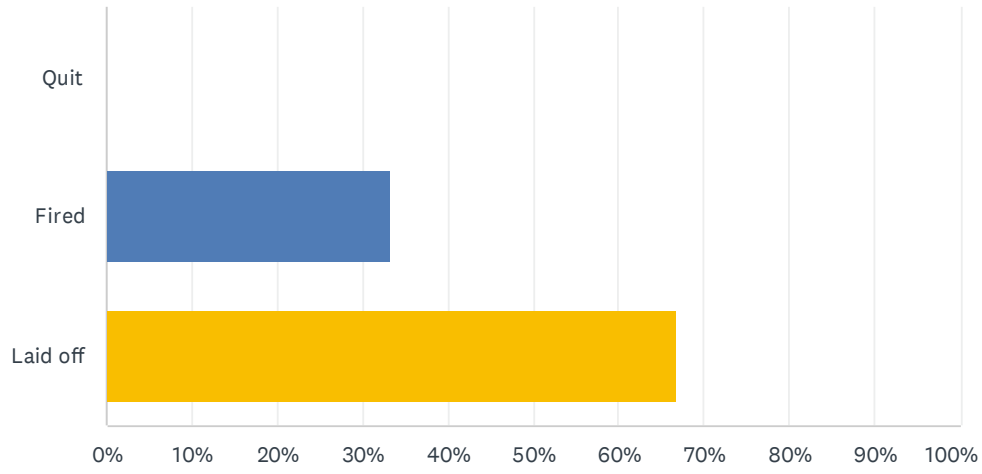
Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 90.91% 30 |
| No             | 9.09% 3   |
| TOTAL          | 33        |

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

Answered: 3 Skipped: 30



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|-----------|
| Quit           | 0.00% 0   |
| Fired          | 33.33% 1  |
| Laid off       | 66.67% 2  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>3</b>  |

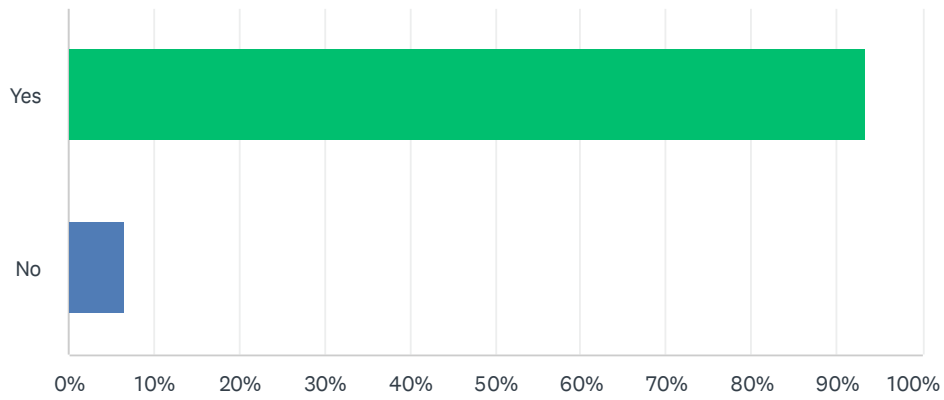
### Q3 What is the name of your employer?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 3



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

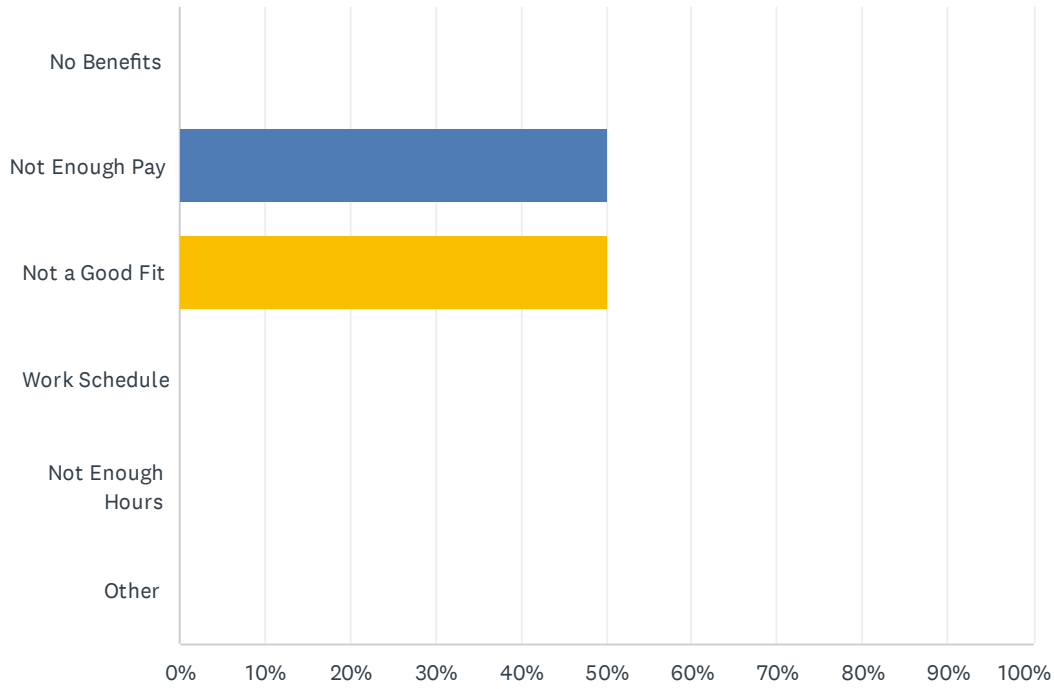
Answered: 30 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes            | 93.33%    | 28 |
| No             | 6.67%     | 2  |
| TOTAL          |           | 30 |

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

Answered: 2 Skipped: 31



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |
|------------------|-----------|
| No Benefits      | 0.00% 0   |
| Not Enough Pay   | 50.00% 1  |
| Not a Good Fit   | 50.00% 1  |
| Work Schedule    | 0.00% 0   |
| Not Enough Hours | 0.00% 0   |
| Other            | 0.00% 0   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>2</b>  |

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

Answered: 0 Skipped: 33

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

Answered: 0 Skipped: 33

 No matching responses.

| 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)                           | 0.00% 0   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>0</b>  |

## Q8 Please describe Not a Good Fit

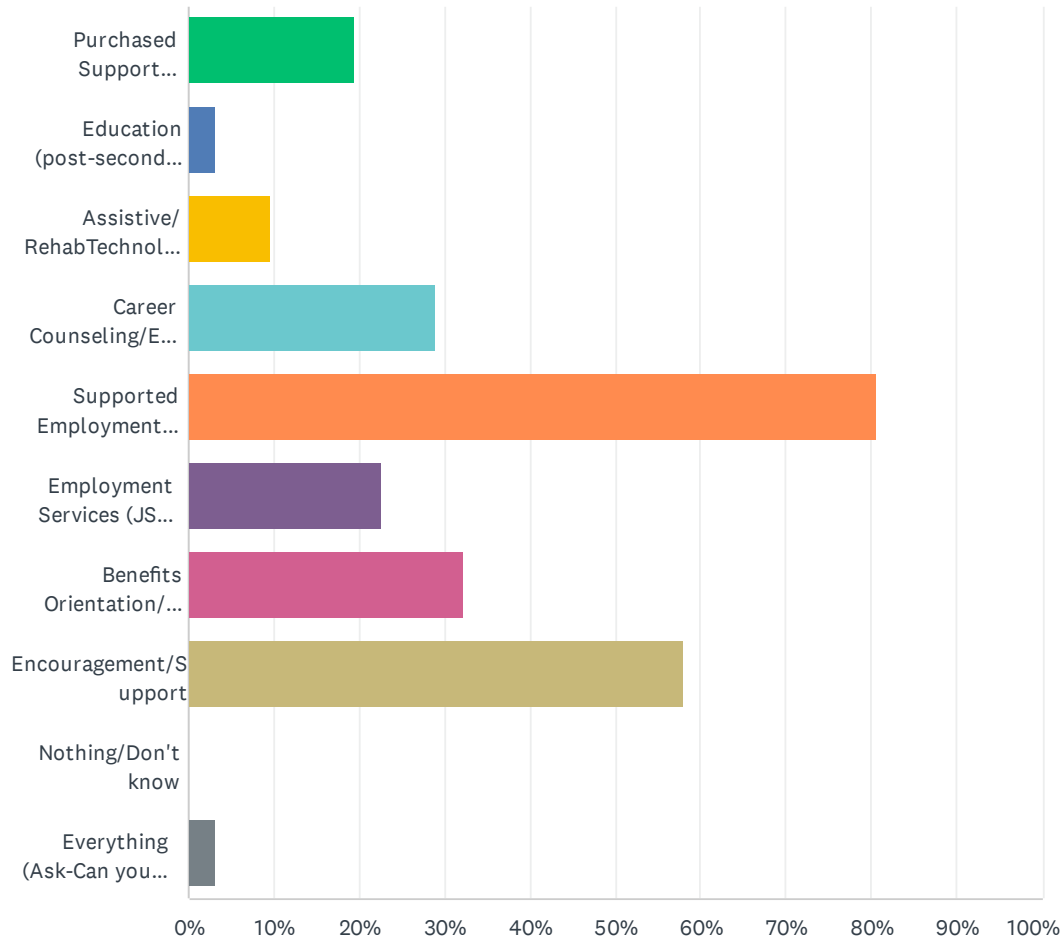
Answered: 1 Skipped: 32

## Q9 Please state hourly wage and how many hours you are/were working per week?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 4

### Q10 What did Nebraska VR provide that was most helpful to you? Mark the categories the client indicated were the most helpful.

Answered: 31 Skipped: 2

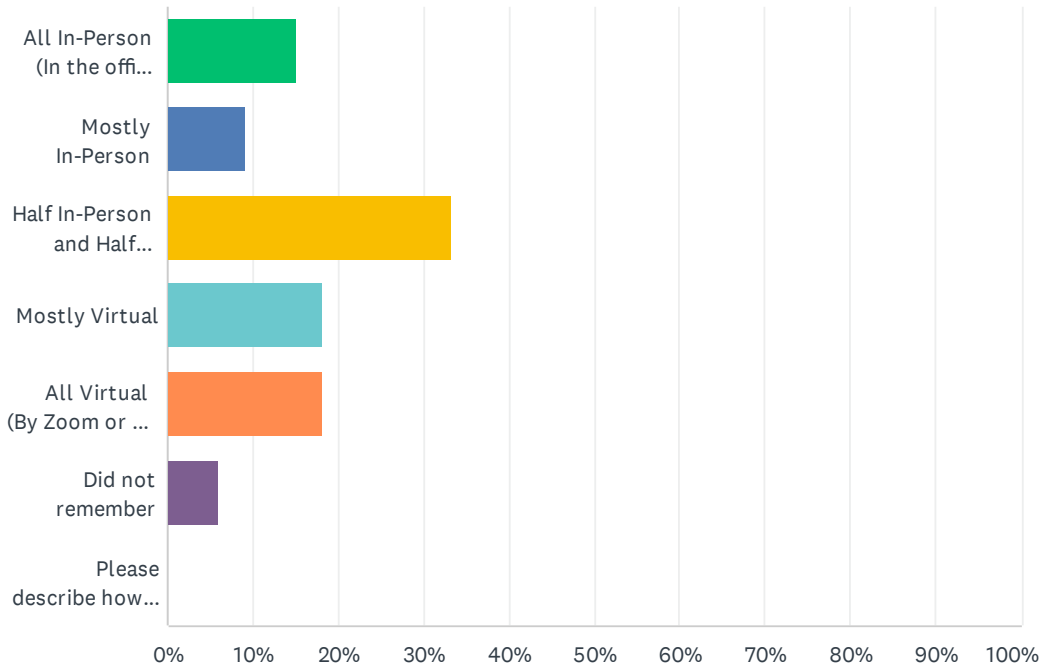


| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |    |
|---|-----------|----|
| Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)                   | 19.35%    | 6  |
| Education (post-secondary training)   | 3.23%     | 1  |
| Assistive/ RehabTechnology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods) | 9.68%     | 3  |
| Career Counseling/Evaluation (Career planning, vocational evaluation, etc.)                               | 29.03%    | 9  |
| Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc. )        | 80.65%    | 25 |
| Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.) | 22.58%    | 7  |
| Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis  | 32.26%    | 10 |
| Encouragement/Support   | 58.06%    | 18 |
| Nothing/Don't know  | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)  | 3.23%     | 1  |
| Total Respondents: 31   |           |    |



# Q11 For appointments with Nebraska VR staff, how did you primarily meet?

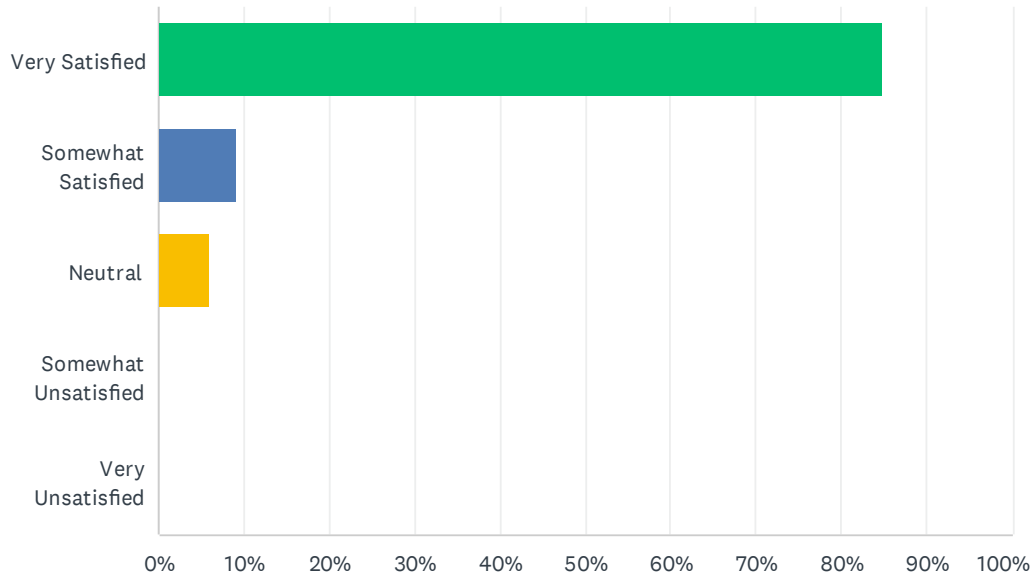
Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| All In-Person (In the office or at a location in the community.) | 15.15%    | 5         |
| Mostly In-Person   | 9.09%     | 3         |
| Half In-Person and Half Virtual                                  | 33.33%    | 11        |
| Mostly Virtual   | 18.18%    | 6         |
| All Virtual (By Zoom or by phone.)                               | 18.18%    | 6         |
| Did not remember   | 6.06%     | 2         |
| Please describe how satisf                                       | 0.00%     | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>33</b> |

## Q12 How satisfied were you with meeting in person, virtually, or a mix of the two?

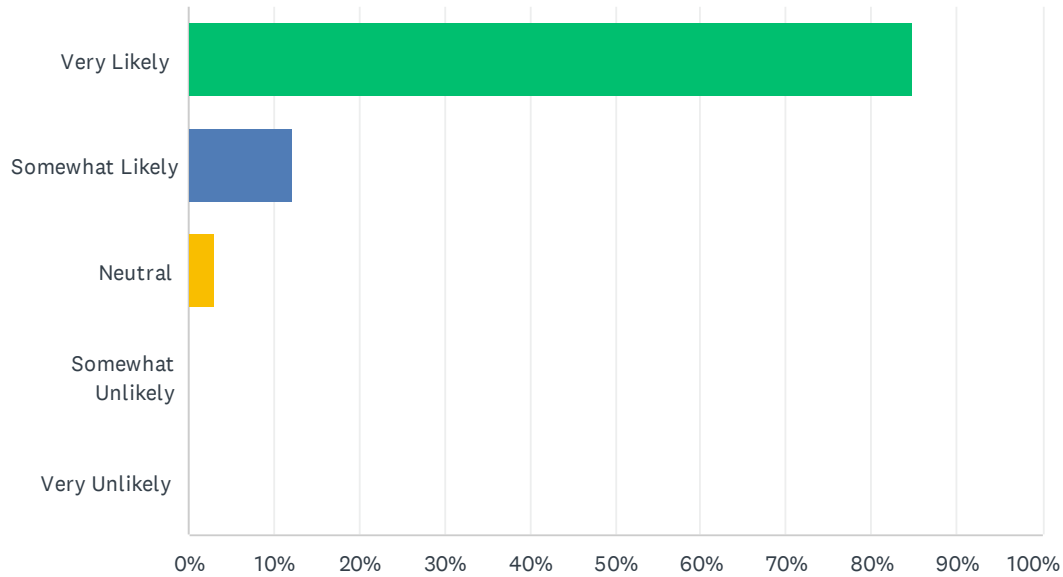
Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES       | RESPONSES |           |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Very Satisfied       | 84.85%    | 28        |
| Somewhat Satisfied   | 9.09%     | 3         |
| Neutral              | 6.06%     | 2         |
| Somewhat Unsatisfied | 0.00%     | 0         |
| Very Unsatisfied     | 0.00%     | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         |           | <b>33</b> |

### Q13 How likely are you to recommend Vocational Rehabilitation to a friend or family member who experiences a disability?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES    | RESPONSES |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Very Likely       | 84.85%    | 28        |
| Somewhat Likely   | 12.12%    | 4         |
| Neutral           | 3.03%     | 1         |
| Somewhat Unlikely | 0.00%     | 0         |
| Very Unlikely     | 0.00%     | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      |           | <b>33</b> |

## Q14 Please share why you are very unlikely, somewhat unlikely and neutral

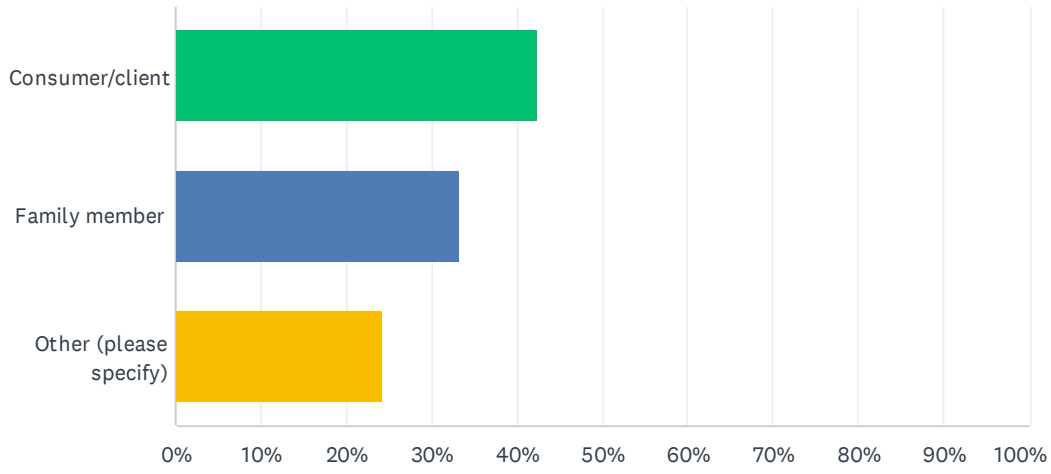
Answered: 1 Skipped: 32

**Q15 Please share any other comments or suggestions you may have.**

Answered: 27 Skipped: 6

### Q16 Who did you talk with?

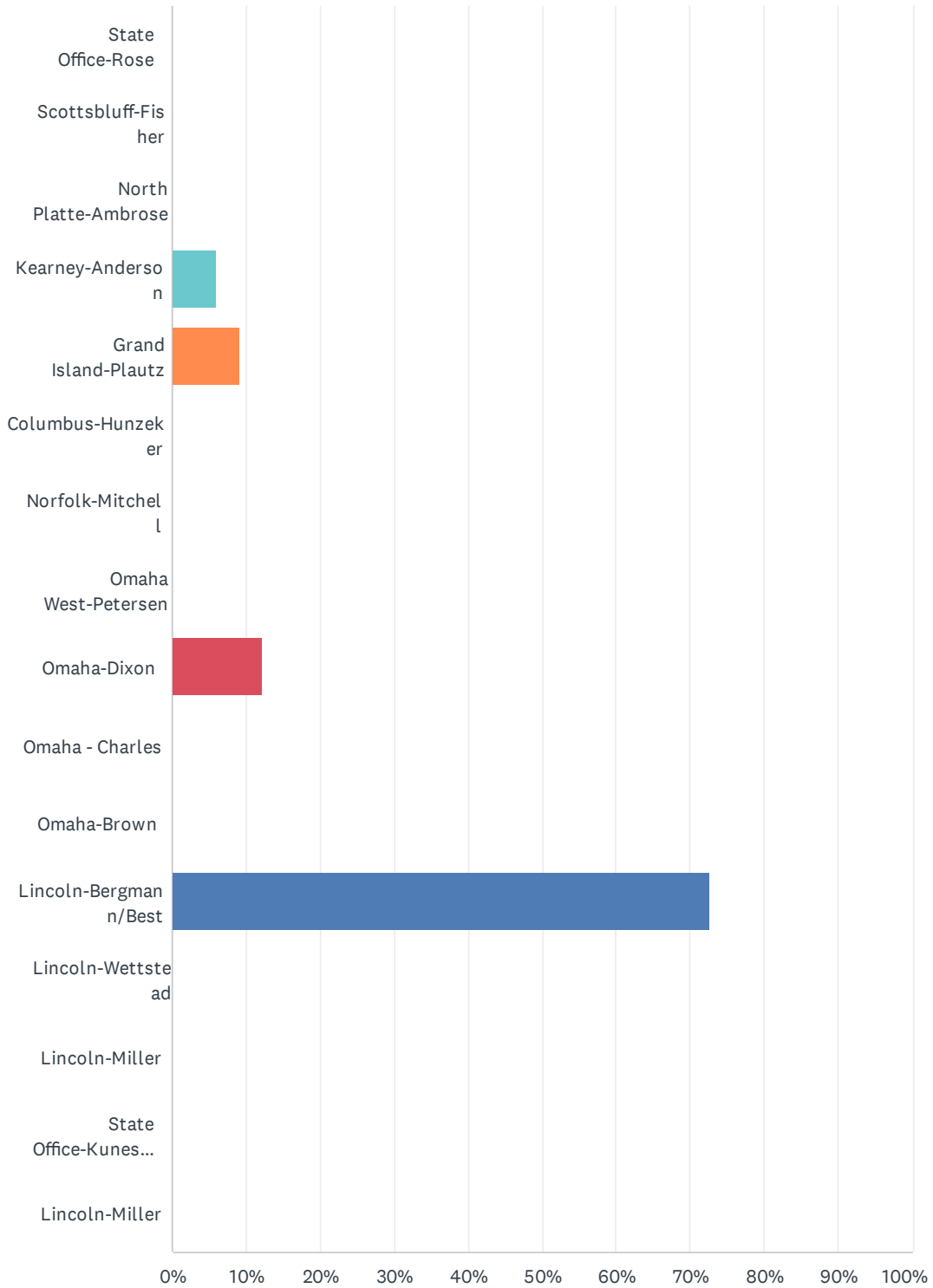
Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES         | RESPONSES |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|
| Consumer/client        | 42.42%    | 14 |
| Family member          | 33.33%    | 11 |
| Other (please specify) | 24.24%    | 8  |
| Total Respondents: 33  |           |    |

### Q17 Which VR Team served this client?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES           | RESPONSES |    |
|--------------------------|-----------|----|
| State Office-Rose        | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Scottsbluff-Fisher       | 0.00%     | 0  |
| North Platte-Ambrose     | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Kearney-Anderson         | 6.06%     | 2  |
| Grand Island-Plautz      | 9.09%     | 3  |
| Columbus-Hunzeker        | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Norfolk-Mitchell         | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Omaha West-Petersen      | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Omaha-Dixon              | 12.12%    | 4  |
| Omaha - Charles          | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Omaha-Brown              | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Lincoln-Bergmann/Best    | 72.73%    | 24 |
| Lincoln-Wettstead        | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Lincoln-Miller           | 0.00%     | 0  |
| State Office-Kunes-Neary | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Lincoln-Miller           | 0.00%     | 0  |
| TOTAL                    |           | 33 |



Notes from Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Our executive director had resigned from her position on 12/22/24. Right now, we have three interim directors for this agency until the permanent director taking over.

Notes from the staff:

***Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Coordinator:***

NCDHH hosted a workshop entitled “Immersion Training: Amalgamation of Deaf and Hearing Interpreter Teams” which was presented by Dr. Regan Thibodeau. This workshop was held in Omaha at ESU #3 on October 6th, 7th, and 8th with a total of 16 participants. Some of the feedback received:

- “Another well-presented workshop that helps me gain confidence in my potential.”
- “Great workshop!”
- “Hands on activities with immediate feedback was my favorite thing about the workshop.”
- “The mock interpreting situations provided us the opportunity to work through the complicated interpreting process.”

The Interpreter Review Board (IRB) and NCDHH hosted a Community Forum at the Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD) hall on Friday evening, November 17th. The purpose of this forum was to collect thoughts and possible solutions from the community regarding growing the number of qualified interpreters in Nebraska. Group participants were provided 4 questions to discuss and report back to the larger group. There were 26 community members present, as well as representatives from the IRB, NeAD, neRID and OAD. A meal consisting of hot dogs, chili and chips was graciously provided by NeAD and neRID. A compilation of the community’s responses will be provided to the IRB for discussion during their next board meeting which will be held on March 1st in Lincoln from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

NCDHH hosted two virtual webinars, each presenting the same content, on Tuesday, December 5th and Sunday, December 10th, both from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm to provide the opportunity for interpreters to meet their licensing requirement of obtaining at least 0.3 continuing education units (CEUs) or 3 clock hours specifically in ethics. “Ethics Visualized” was presented by Dr. Regan Thibodeau on two separate dates. This was an opportunity to learn more about Ethical fitness. Using the case presentation model, scenarios were discussed, and participants discovered other ways to experience and navigate ethics. Interpreters all share a common ground in wanting to provide effective interpreting services with finesse, so how we define ethics provides a foundation to how we make decisions.

| Nebraska License Information (as of 11-29-2023)                         | Total # |
|---|---------|
| Interpreters with National Certification (includes 7 Temporary Permits) | 75      |
| Interpreters with State Certification                                   | 32      |
| Intermediary (Deaf) Interpreters (RID Certified CDI)                    | 1       |

Intermediary (Deaf) Interpreters (State Licensed DI) 5

Apprentice License Interpreters 7

Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) businesses 16

***Kim Davis, Lead Advocacy Specialist:***

NCDHH Legislative Activities:

- Worked with Katia and Jeremy's booth at the State Capitol. Purpose was to promote Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness for our agency and other stakeholders (LAD, NE H&V, and Lindsay Darnall Jr) to legislative staff and senators.
- Legislative Bill (LB1180) sponsored by Senator Wishart. Bill is to update eligible standards with NSTEP, including changes from one phone per household to two phones, and reapplication from every five years, to every three years. Currently referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. [https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=55473](https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=55473)

***Aaron Rottenberger, Kearney Advocacy Specialist:***

I have taken part in a fire safety awareness event with Hands and Voices.

Held a table at the Kids and Dreams Autism Conference.

Held a table at the Tri City Storm Hockey game.

Presented to the Grand Island Sertoma Group.

***Katia Castro, Lincoln Advocacy Specialist:***

Katia is no stranger to the state of Nebraska, she comes to NCDHH with years of experience working in state government, including her prior work at Aging Partners. Katia holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and is fluent in English, Spanish, and Sign Language! She was hired to take over Southeast Region, which Kim was promoted to Lead Advocacy Specialist.

***Jeremy Daffern, Omaha Advocacy Specialist:***

I am in process with Ashley Wulf, Youth and Families Specialist working along with Omaha Police Department, Hands and Voices, and other First Responders to set up Safety Day on April 13, and April 26 with Norfolk Fire Division. More updates will be sent out through Facebook and emails.



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 February 6, 2024**

**NYLC welcomed new member Isaiah Calles from Lincoln NE.**

**Oct. 1 – Dec. 31 2023 NYLC events.**

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

| Date          | Members Attending | Activity   |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Oct.5, 2023   | 6                 | Calendar & Event Invites<br>October is Downs Syndrome Awareness Month, Spina Bifida Awareness Month, and ADHD Awareness Month. We discussed what each of these disabilities entailed and watched a short video about each. The youth brought up a important point. That it didn't really matter what the disability was. What mattered most was being included and not looked down upon b/c of the disability. |
| Oct. 19, 2023 | 7                 | Calendar & Events Invites<br>Special speaker, Matt Kaslon, former NYLC member and promoter of self-advocacy for all people. Matt talked about his life journey and why it is important to be involved in your community and for you to be a self-advocate.   |
| Nov. 2, 2023  | 8                 | Calendar & Event Invites<br>Family Feud Fast Money, NYLC Style   |
| Nov. 30, 2023 | 8                 | Calendar & Event Invites<br>End of year and holiday KaHoot games.  |

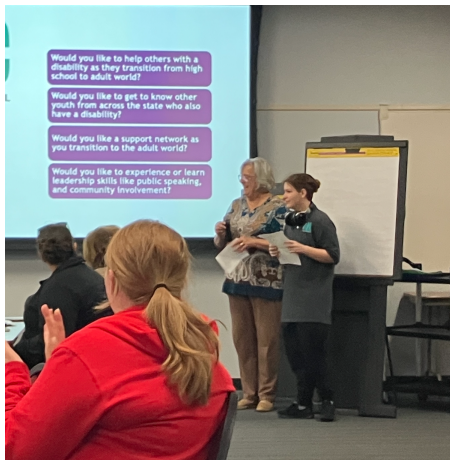
**NYLC Presentations/Out-reach**

| Date           | Members Attending                     | What   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sept. 29, 2023 |                                       | LPS Independence Academy supervisor Alisha Bollinger, NYLC information meeting   |
| Oct. 20, 2023  | 1<br>Jessica<br>Elsberry              | CRAVE students, Milford NE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-advocacy interactive presentation and</li> <li>• NYLC recruiting ppt.</li> </ul>  |
| Oct. 24, 2023  | 2<br>Stephanie<br>Kaup<br>Molly Cline | ESU 3 Transition Agency Fair, LaVista NE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12-2:30 Teachers, Stephanie presented to teachers</li> <li>• 5-7:30 Families, Molly gave out NYLC information</li> </ul> |
| Nov. 7, 2023   |                                       | ESU 3 Job Expo LaVista NE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-advocacy interactive presentation</li> <li>• NYLC recruiting</li> </ul>  |
| Nov. 16, 2023  |                                       | ESU 10 Transition Fair, Kearney, NE<br>Interactive Presentations:  |



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

|               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
|               |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-advocacy with peers – Using games to provide opportunities to self-advocate in order to accommodate needs.</li> <li>• Everyday Self-advocacy (school, work, home, community) interactive presentation.</li> <li>• NYLC recruiting</li> </ul> |
| Dec. 11, 2023 |  | ESU 13, Scottsbluff Virtual Presentation to area teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYLC recruiting information</li> </ul>  |
| Dec. 14, 2023 |  | ESU 7 Transition Fair Planning Meeting   |



Stephanie sharing with teachers  
At ESU 3



Students participating in interactive self-advocacy activities



## **State Rehabilitation Council Meeting February 6, 2024 Director's Report**

### **Nebraska VR's Portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

- Stakeholder Input
  - State Board of Education Meetings
  - Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment
  - Client satisfaction surveys, school surveys
- Public Comment Period (January 16-February 16, 2024)
- Public Meeting held on January 31
- Submission deadline: March 1, 2024

### **Executive Summary**

#### **State Rehabilitation Council Membership (Section a)**

- State Workforce Board representative

#### **Goals Priorities and Strategies (Section c)**

- **GOAL #1: Increase effective communication and engagement with clients, businesses, SRC, and staff members.**
  - Priority 1: Improve processes for communicating and engaging with clients —
  - Priority 2: Improve processes for communicating and engaging with businesses to emphasize Nebraska VR's dual-customer approach —
  - Priority 3: Improve processes for communicating and engaging with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) —
  - Priority 4: Improve processes for communicating and engaging with Nebraska VR staff —
- **GOAL #2: Increase youth with disabilities' awareness of Nebraska VR services.**
  - Priority 1: Increase the number of youth applying for Nebraska VR services and the number of Individualized Plans for Employment (IPE) developed —
  - Priority 2: Decrease the number of Pre-Employment Transition Services cases that did not apply for Nebraska VR —
  - Priority 3: Increase the number of successful outcomes on cases with at least

one Pre-Employment Transition Service—

- **GOAL #3: Improve processes to ensure unserved and underserved populations have access to Nebraska VR services.**
  - Priority 1: Expand the communication tools available to the agency for reaching diverse populations —
  - Priority 2: Each Nebraska VR Office will implement outreach strategies to identified unserved/underserved populations in order to increase the number of individuals served in these subgroups—
  - Priority 3: Expand processes used to recruit and retain staff representative of the population being served —
  
- **GOAL #4: Improve quality outcomes for clients receiving supported employment or customized employment.**
  - Priority 1: Increase the percentage of individuals who exit Nebraska VR supported employment or customized employment with competitive integrated employment —
  - Priority 2: Increase the average number of hours worked by successfully closed clients who received supported or customized employment —
  - Priority 3: Increase the average earnings of successfully closed clients receiving supported employment or customized employment.

#### **Order of Selection (Section g)**

- End Order of Selection- serving all eligible individuals
  - Priority Group 1- Open
  - Priority Group 2- Open
  - Priority Group 3- Open

#### **Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (Section i)**

- Procedures and activities the VR agency will undertake to ensure it has an adequate supply of State rehabilitation staff.

#### **Cooperation, Collaboration, and Coordination (Sections j, k, l)**

- Education Officials
- Employers
- Interagency Cooperation with Other Agencies

WIOA State Plan Public Notice and Additional Information: <http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/>

Notes on my trip to NCSRC conference in Savannah Georgia:

I arrived and met the president of NCSRC, Graham Sisson. He is from state of Alabama. I discovered there were so many diversities of persons with disabilities attended this conference.

During the first day of conference, there were three presentations, The Critical Role of Financial Education in Supporting VR Outcomes, The Role of CAP on the SRC, and NCSRC website.

The Role of CAP on the SRC explains on how the CAP focus on SRC to observe how we work, ensure that we are doing something to tailor our clients' needs and importance of completing the tasks on time, not putting it off.

During the second day of conference, there were four presentations, "The Power of VR", Meeting the Challenge of Virtual Meetings, VR Return on Investment Project, The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) updates.

Two of the presentations does hit me hard are The Power of VR and Meeting the Challenge of Virtual Meetings.

Lorenzo Brown, Executive Director of Is-Able Ministries in Homewood, AL. When he was 17, he was shot and discovered he was paralyzed from chest down. He was depressed and couldn't move due to his condition. He was in two nursing homes because his mother couldn't take care of him. At the one point during his stay at nursing home, his nursing instructor asked him, "If you ever had the chance to change your life, what would you do with it?". It made him think and decided to do something about it. He ended up working with his long-time friend to establish his organization "Is-able Ministries", along with help from Alabama Department of Rehabilitation. He emphasized that it is important that persons with disabilities can be independent and on their own with VR's assistance. He wouldn't achieve his dream and passion with VR.

Other presentation came from New Mexico Commission for the Blind, they explained the frustrations and challenges they faced with virtual meetings. Kelly Burma, Skills Center Coordinator explained to us how the Zoom meetings operate and many times they show the slides. Almost every time they show the slides, it did not describe what the slides or what it looks like to the blind audience. They emphasized that VR should provide services like this to improve the information and description giving out during the virtual meetings and different platforms.