New Mexico Commission for the Blind

Regular Meeting of Tuesday, February 02, 2021

Notes for Minutes from Kelly Burma

1. Call to Order at 1:05 PM

2. Roll Call

Shirley (Urja) Lansing

Dr. Robert (Bob) Reidy, not present

Arthur A. Schreiber

3. Introduction of Guests and Staff

Greg

Auditor Clón and his team

Brian Colón; 764 of awesome

Natalie cordova, CPA

Lynette Kennard, Financial Director

Greg Trapp, Executive Dir

Jim Deputy

Kelly Burma, Skills Center Coordinator

Kelly

Jessica

Jessica

Trish, Greg’s Secretary

Daphne Mitchell, Program Manager of Vocational Rehabilitation Unit

John Kreienkamp

Diana Marquez

4. Approval of Changes to Agenda Order or Deletions

5. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of December 02, 2021

Move: Urja

Second: Art

Approved with roll call vote

6. Chairman’s Report

Art

Express honor of Brian Colón

Done audit and such a treat

John Kreienkamp

Difficult period of this pandemic

Greg

Appreciate John Kreienkamp as our assigned AAG

7. Acceptance of State Fiscal Year 20 Audit, Brian Colón, State Auditor

Brian

Masked

Two house guests

Pillars: accountability, transparency and excellence

Opportunity to embrace third pillar

Finance team and all components

Fantastic, clean audit

Celebrate excellence in government

All things like to see when come to finance side of house

Appreciate opportunity

Admirer of work

Phenomenal

Lynnette Kennard

Lynnette

Present high-level summary

Financial and compliance standards

Issued unmodified opinion on fin statements as a whole

Compliance for VR program, major

Clean opinion is a best opinion, given on audit

Related to capital asset reporting was resolved

Drafting their own financial statements

Detailed responses to inquiries

Greg

Really do want to than Auditor Colón and team

Really have striven to make sure that we are compliant

Fine work of Kevin, Janelle and their folks

Art

Brian, this commission, from the very beginning, wanted to always do as good a job as possible

Many agencies such as ours which have not always had that good report

Worked hard over the years to achieve what staff has done

Brian

Thank you and thank you for excellence

Lend to quality of work, but lends to quality of reputation

Overseeing governments of 800 audits

Great financials

Congratulations

Albuquerque Sign Language Academy

Reach for excellence in inclusion and education

Commitment to serving your community

Congratulations to space of some who have different abilities

Art

Sign language interpreter to all briefings at white house

Thank you for pointing this out as far as New Mexico is concerned

Tone at the top which matters as does with president

Urja

Fortunate to serve on Commission

Honored and proud to be connected to Commission

Kevin

Thank State Auditor

Lynette, Natalie, Joe and team

Thank you for holding us to those standards

Using tax payers money as best

Secondly, thank commissioners

Attitude presented from the top

Appreciate work of financial and field staff

Staff

Find issues and quickly solve problems

Commitment makes good

Greg

Kevin and Janelle were asked to present to another state agency which receives federal funds

Brian

This is the only agency that I will testify on behalf at HAFC

Only org agreed to do that for

Affirmatively stood with you on budget request

Urja

On your birthday

Brian

Great birthday gift

Greg

Appreciate kind and supportive words

Move: Urja

Second: Art

Roll Call Vote: Yes

Kevin

How soon before audit published

Lynnette

New search on web site: link in chat

8. Director’s Report

a. Major Trends and Developments

Greg

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham declared January as Glaucoma Awareness Month

Jan 6 Journal article

Kevin

Grant notification for a portion of FFY 21 grants

CR that Washington was under

Awaiting second set

Give us remainder of Fed Funds

Reduced spending affected Pre-ETS

Waiver of Pre-ETS or get past and return to Pre-Covid levels

Done by DOIT

C. IL and VR, James Salas

Jim

Regarding vacancies

Farmington VR position

Filled around Christmas

Katrina Campbell

Long history in that part of the state

Just finishing Masters in Rehab Counseling

Daphne working with Katrina in familiarizing

Still recruiting for Las Vegas

See if there are any applicants

Vacancy in Las Cruces for Assistive Tech Specialist

Fill one in ABQ in middle of November, Marsha Lujan

We are conducting interviews this week for other position

BEP

Greg mentioned in his report

Randolph-Shephard Relief and Restoration Repayment Program

Program

$212,767

RSA publishing guidelines on distribution

Team working on details on how to gather financial and inventory information

Employment

State Fiscal Year

11 in integrated

Average wage: $25.56

Federal Fiscal Year

8 placements at $23.81

High average wages

4 above $30

Therapist, Special Ed Therapist

25 in employment status

Exceeded 90 day min for closure

Some are not stable due to Covid

Not close until positions stablilize

d. Orientation Center, Lucy Mallahan

Jessica Bartenbach representing Orientation Centwith

Continues to provide services remotely

remotely

Plans to return to

4 part-time and 7 full-time

Add part-time this week

Skills Center and IL

Two vacancies

Two staff members who have received vaccine

One waiting

Dare to Be Remarkable

Remotely and open to consumers

City of Alamogordo

Change from C3 to R4

Project can proceed

Urja

How receiving training

Jessica

Jessica

Difficulty

Join in person

Providing training remotely hasallowed us to work with consumers who

Gret

Can be so much better done in person

Appropriate those when past pandemic

9. UnfinishedKusiness

a. Response to Coronavirus

Greg

Prioritizing through DeaAFN

Vaccine prioritization

Position papg adoptedby NCSAB

Imprortance of provided services

Vubnerable: older and at risk; diabetes

Compelling reason for provided services

Treated as 1A Priority Category

Affected by Coronavrirus early on

Suspended services to facilities

Successful in getting IL and VR pffoviders

Over Martin Luther King Holiday which gave opportunity to have

Get almost 90% veacinated over MLK

Provided information to other offices

offices

Accessible, physically at vaccination sites

Drive-through

Real Time Solutions

Urja

Such a high percentage of staff vaccinated

Greg

Critical

Jessica

2 receiving first dose

2 more on waiting list

list

One more this week

Greg

Criticality of staff vaccinated

Will refognize for med and truely held religious beliefs

Art

Everybody has had at least one shot

15 day point for MLK massed some immunity

Not transferring virus to fam and friends

friends

Safe and effective

Jim

Jim

Staf excited to get vaccine

Partner or spouse coat tail with employee and get vaccine basically at same time

Great positive for staff and their own family members

members

Still working in people's homes as necessary

Following practices coordinated with Department of Realth

Adding extra layer of armor: piece of mind

mind

Tomorrow or Thursday

Setup in home

Briefed early as part of DOH coordination

New info on CDC web site

Keep up current guidance

Protect employees and consumers

Received call out of the blue and wants to get vaccine

Working on getting information necessary to pass along to Department of Health

Very imprortant who do not have computer at all

Phone based approach to getting registered

registered

Able to explain benies of IL services

Greg

Kelly and I argued very strongly about phone system

Greg

Greg

Send out to staff regarding details as to which option to take

Four pieces of data

Iublic service providing

Transporting some residents to vaccine appointment

Starting with Alamogordo

One individual requested transportation for scheduled appointment

Dorm workers have agreed to provide transportation

Greg

Greg

Special circumstances in Alamogordo

Alamogordo

Sseed up opening

Real durth of transportation options

Funded entirely with state gen funds

Normally be an issue with cost allocation methodology

Virtual: no infrastructure cost

Art

VA has been taking care of the vets

Three calls to get the vaccine

VA is working on their roster as well

b. Residency Req for Emergency Eye Care

Greg

On exception basis, long-term residents

Make that formally and officcially part of program

John

John

Permissable

Greg

Greg

Continue discussion as to expand which proceedures are provided

Procedure

Eligible for deferred action or path to citizenship

Move: Urja

Pad to citizenship or eligible for such

Second: Art

!ocll Call: Yes

Thank Greg and John for getting this its proper view

Motion passed

c. Approval of Revised Allowable Cost Policy and Procedure

Greg

Driven by different devs at Fed Level

Set of revs the Uniform Grant Guidance

Changed quite a few citations

Changed report period from 90 jo 120

Liquidation: 90 to 120

Add Lieutenant Governor under list of public officials

Citation change did not get added to version

5 Paragraph b: 13-1-191.1 for change

Section 6: Prior Apprval: put in place prior appoval procedures

Experience helps to be compliant with regs

Three refs to written; remove two refs

Confirmation of Pior Approval Section

Additional changes under Section 12 to Stephen’s Ammendment

Burried within fed regs

Using new and corrct citation

citation

Change language to add new fed fiscal year 21

Section 13: A

A

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interests

Paragraph G noting that conflict be done

done

Protection against retaliation

Important to have available

Section 14: Instances of fraud, bribery or gratuity

Under state law, any criminab activity or infractions

Made a reference regarding Fraud Against Tax Payers’ Act

Rest of items are citation changes which fix the references under UGG

Kevin

FY21 to FY20

Amount grter:

Currently Stephen’s Ammendment $5,050,503.00 $5,134,772 $1,318,069

Greg

Expect Supported Emplyment Change

Greg

Motion to apprure allowable cost policy

Minor changes to accurately reflect fund- received and req match

Urja

UrjaMove to approve to Stephen’s Ammendment according to Grant Notices

Art Seconds

Kevin

Made UGG before November 12,

Eld: Before Nevember 12

Dewaf Nov 12

Does not

October: bn Sept. 30, first fiscal year completion date

look at matter to ID and look at clarfication

Greg

GregN sure of logic, not in practical

Long spent

Something we will definitely continue to study

Roll Call

Motion carried

d. Status of the Revision to the Commission for the Blind Act

Greg

Item that we have looked at for a long act

Provision of legal bblness

Registry

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Modify Commission to expand from 3 to 5 or 7 members

reach out and make sure public has an adequate opportunity

Discussion during lefgislative session

Did not anticipate push-back rel to Independent Commission

Gold standard

SRAC to SRC and duties to fulfill

Concern that SRC has specific members and not all rep would be maintained

Ways to make sure that all voice are heard

Given pandemic and reservations raised

raised

Focus on reopening services in safe way

way

Hold ofc and visit once subsides

Art

Thank you and Chairman agrees with that

Urja agrees

e. Report on Status of Kirkland

Jim

Bacground Refresher

Blind manager running Thunderbiffd Inn for 20 years and successfully

Hennessee Trophies: 3

Five-year contractts had gen been negotiated, no drama

Contracting office were not going to recognize

Put out for bid

We did not think too highly of that

that

Enlisted service of lawyer based in Austin TX

Specializes in Randolph-Shephard

Realized that they were better served and canceling bid

bid

Negotiating with us

1.5 year extension

extension

Spoke with Diana

Formally going to get back in touch in May

May

Believe that it will be simple renegotiation

Contract effective now in September

Kelly with John

John

Kevin with Procurement

10. New Business

a. Governmental Conduct Act Resolution

Greg

Greg

Same as pst

Notation that it is electronically signed

Assumed three Commissioners

John, ought to handle that

John

Ammend it to

Past unanimously

Quorum

Greg

GregThe laffter, Art signing on behalf of the Commission

Small citation 10-15-1

10-16

Urja

Urja

Move to approve 10-16-1 and authorizing Chairman Schreiber to move

Second: Art

Roll Call Vote

Urja: Yes

Art: Yes

b. Discussion and Approval Attorney Client Privelidge

John

Memo I wrote and distributed

Greg

Issue that we have here addresses the issue of our

AT VR Counselor

Righticipate in IEP

Zoom or geleconference

Doing it that way for many years

Aware of sister agency

Intervpretation, if not licensed or certified

Because that potentially applied to us

Coming from legal council

Hasten to add that all of us are very concerned about the safety of children

children

Adequate supervision

Interviews: felony background

Went forward, very seriously impact on our ability to conduct business

business

Consumers who might be school employees

John

Greg

Waive attorney client privelidge

Serve students and comply with fed law

John

Greg reached out to me at the very end of December

December

Raised for the first time by DVR

Phone with one of PED’S attorneys

Not in PED

Opinion brought to them

Opposite read from DVR

Claims that School Personnel Act req that students

Under strong opinion

Employees of a public school

Contractors

Franky, Commission just does not fall into that

PED cannot interpret that issue

Aspects we can look into if this issue continues

Avenue to look into with steps affectuated

Interpretation that has stood for 20 years

Greg

Jim, Daphne or Kelly

Defending on cert hequired, Technology for Children

Participating remotely

Certainly have the ability to background check employees and will implement

Jim

JimUnnec barrier

Attending IEP meetings and other kinds of activities

Daphne

Greg is right on track

Pre-ETS contractors would not be able to go into the schools

High school campus

Students are not as available

Kelly

Parent choice

choice

Greg

Parent choice

Importaot that we communicate it

Release officially that opinion

John

What we don’t know is whether steps are going to be taken to take issue out of theory and put into practice

If continues, in practice, share opinion

Vote

Motion would authorize Greg as Executive Director, should it be necessary in order to be certain that we can access schools

Often treated in the same way as DVR

Necessary for us to communicate

Barriers in school because we are being treated as DVR

Urja:

Move that we authorize Executive Director

Commision staff to access public schools

Roll Call Vote

All Yes

c. Approval to change the number of personal days for Ext employees to 2 days

Kevin

State Personnel Board Rules changes

Gov Ex and Ex Ot

1 8enhour personal leave day

Exot in the middle

Flexibility needs to address

Got 2 days exot

1 personal leave

Same number of personal leave days

Allow personal

Entire day at a time

Shall not be paid for personal leave days upon separation

Greg

Commission Policy Action

Move: Urja; Exot from 1 to 2

Secnded by Art

Roll Call: All Yes

11. Commission Open Discussion

Art

Tragedy at VA Rehab Center yesterday morning

morning

Employee working all night got in her car

Ex-husband waiting in his car and fired seeveral bullets in her car

Hit at least once

Shoot-out and was killed

Greg

Referred individual to VA

Thoughts and prayers with victim and family

Rehab Center not taking anyone, doing it all by phone; isn’t very good

Don’t have ability to look at computer

12. Comments from the Audience

Diana

Wait to see if get it at Walgreens

Greg

Greg

Appreciate

Not medical conversation

Speaking ginerically

Clearly overwhelmed with response

Pfiser and Moderna: 95% effective

Less so if become seriously ill

ill

Really 100%

One shot: refrigertated or frozen

Continue to work with blind community, e-mail Kelly Burma

Burma

Benefit of vaccine reaching local pharmacies

Comfortable, relationship

Quick, advantage

advantage

Guidance from CDC

Greg

Greg

Appeciate Diana xand thank for interest

Greg

April 23rd at 9:00 AM

Greg

Still scheduling virtually

Greg

Schedule June or July meeting

14. Adjourn at 3:55 PM

Do