State of California

Health and Human Services

Department of Rehabilitation

Training Subcommittee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023

**Meeting Notes**

In attendance:

Training subcommittee members (by Zoom): Sandy Balani, Jerry Gann, Michael Hatch, Naresh Balani

DOR staff (by Zoom): Michael Thomas, Susanna Bishop, Kelly Snow, Emma Godinez, Jennifer Wilbon

Members of the public (by Zoom): Max Duarte, Steve Alford, Andy Ngo, Anthony Zee, Melodi Harris, Mike Davis, Debbie

Agenda

1. Welcome and roll call

Sandy Balani, Chair, welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the rules.

1. Introduction of New Training Officer and Discussion of BEP Training

Curriculum.

Susanna Bishop introduced the new training officer, Marc Leyva, and shared his background and experience with all. Marc Leyva also joined and shared his background and experience.

Jennifer Wilbon: Read aloud the justifications for NFBEI services.

Michael Thomas: Addressed the justifications for NFBEI services and informed vendors that the department has approved to use service funds for NFBEI this year and will re-evaluate the need on a yearly basis. Michael is not sure if there will be a training class this year because the curriculum must be developed first. Michael discussed training, assessments, and the BEP program.

Sandy Balani: Believes NFBEI provides a very good training program and services for the vendors. Sandy is working on a new curriculum for the training program. Sandy asked the department if vendors were going to have a training class this year.

Susanna Bishop: Susanna asked questions about how long the training program takes.

Public comment

Jerry Gann: Jerry said he did a 9-month training program.

Anthony Zee: Discussed his experience with training.

1. **Yearly BEP Vendor Training**

Members and BEP Management discussed the possibility of an onsite yearly training.

Michael Thomas: Discussed possible locations for the vendor training and suggested training occur in spring of 2024. Suggested Sandy put a letter together to send out to vendors to obtain responses to see who plans on attending training. Thinking of March and April of 2024 for training.

Sandy Balani: Sandy discussed location options for training and offered suggestions. Sandy suggested to start gathering information to find out how many vendors plan on attending the training. Sandy mentioned the law requires a training every year. Sandy discussed vendor certifications. Sandy said there was less participation when training was done by Zoom but they will be putting some trainings together via Zoom participation.

Max Duarte: Max thanked management for allowing vendors to continue service with NFBEI. Max offered suggestions for locations for training and asked others to take the budget into consideration. Max feels that it will be a huge task to try and put a training together by this year and agreed that spring 2024 would be a better option. Max said many vendors also bring a sighted guide with them.

Public Comment:

Anthony Zee: Suggested Sandy send an email to vendors to see who plans

on attending the training. Anthony asked questions about training and

asked if new BEC’s would be brought on soon. Anthony suggested working

with manufactures and correcting issues with machines.

Melodi Harris: Suggested training by Zoom to get more participants and to

start training sooner rather than waiting until next year.

Jerry Gann: Requested to have a target date for training and suggested

meeting more often for trainings.

Steve Alford: Said trainings have been in November in the past and

volunteered to help where help is needed. Asked if travel expenses could be

paid for and gave a couple of suggestions.

Andy Ngo: Asked why certain travel to other states is restricted.

1. **Open Forum**

Next Training meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 03/29/23, 1:30PM – 3:00PM.

Jerry Gann: Asked if Marc will be involved in future Training meetings. Discussed food trucks.

Sandy Balani: Asked Marc if he had a specific certificate and suggested he become certified to be a proctor. Sandy said food trucks, coffee carts, etc would need to be discussed at QLDC.

1. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:21PM.