



A CONSUMER CONTROLLED COUNCIL COMMITTED TO
ENSURING QUALITY REHABILITATION SERVICES

REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA

State Rehabilitation Council

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) values the input and involvement of all citizens in Nebraska regarding rehabilitation services. All SRC meetings are open to the public and are a great opportunity for the public to voice concerns and opinions.

MEETINGS:

Meeting dates, times and locations are posted on the Nebraska VR web site at vr.nebraska.gov

WRITE:

State Rehabilitation Council Chairperson
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509

CALL:

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State Rehabilitation Council

Nebraska Department of Education

October 1, 2015

To the Citizens of the State of Nebraska:

As Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), I'm honored to present the 2014-2015 report on the performance & activities of the Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council. This report highlights the partnership between the SRC and Nebraska VR to ensure quality services and advocate for individuals with disabilities in Nebraska.

During this past year, SRC members heard reports & legislative updates from Nebraska VR Director Mark Schultz. Reports were also shared from the Client Assistance Program Director, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Assistive Technology Partnership, and the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council. The Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council also continued recruiting and filling the seats vacated by retiring or outgoing members. The Council looks forward to working with the newly appointed members.

The following are some of this year's SRC activities:

- Visited the State Capital with information for Nebraska State Senators and staff to highlight Nebraska VR employment services and the value of building an inclusive workforce.
- Held the 2014 Entrepreneur of Distinction Awards at the Nebraska VR Lincoln office. Charlene Potter, Lee Krum, and Dan Hromas were chosen to receive the award. Two Alumni Awards were also presented to Jessica Goeden and Nathan Chandler.
- Continued to monitor client satisfaction survey results to assure clients are pleased with the services they receive. Additionally, the committee worked on outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing community as well as the Latino community.
- Supported the initiatives to make Transition & Career Planning easier for parents to understand.
- Made recommendations about how to work with employers across the state and provided input on key services to businesses.

Another successful year can be attributed to the collaboration, advocacy, and support from the dedicated members of the SRC and Nebraska VR staff. I would like to show appreciation for the work of the SRC and the commitment to working to ensure Nebraskans with disabilities have access to meaningful employment opportunities.

Kipp Ransom

Kipp Ransom, Chairperson
Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council

SRC Committees and Accomplishments



Pam Baltzer—Omaha

Pam is a small business owner and a former Nebraska VR client. She served on the Transition Services Committee.



Sharon Bloechle—Omaha

Sharon is the parent of an adult son with disabilities and is a member of Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska. She served on the Client Services Committee.



Robert Danner—David City

Robert is a small business owner who received services from Nebraska VR. He served on the Transition Services Committee.



Nancy Devor—Wayne

Nancy is a current client of Nebraska VR receiving services from the Norfolk VR office. She is on the Employer Services Committee.



Jaime Galloway—Lincoln

Jaime is a former Nebraska VR client and the parent and grandparent of children who experience a disability. He served on the Client Services Committee.



Rita Hammitt—Omaha

Rita works in the Special Populations Office of the Nebraska Department of Education. She served on the Transition Services Committee.

Client Services Committee

Members: Sharon Bloechle, Jaime Galloway, Brad Meurrens, Jonathan Moeller, Leslie Novacek, Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, Joni Thomas (Chair).

Janet Drudik, Nebraska VR Advisor.

During the past year, members of the Client Services Committee focused on the following activities:

- Reviewed and provided feedback on the survey completed by clients 90 days after employed. Recommended clarification of one of the questions to determine why the job ended and track these responses.
- Provided feedback for the combination of the Nebraska VR adult and transition workbook that explores client's interests, assets, work history and employment needs. Recommended adding benefit analysis to the booklet.
- Recommended a Client Services Committee member serve on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Committee to provide feedback to the group.



Joni Thomas—Lincoln

Client Services Committee Chairperson — Joni Thomas

Joni is the Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska.

Employer Services Committee

Members: Nancy Drevo, April Isaacs (Chair), John McNally, Vicki Newman, Mark Schultz, David Scott.

Lindy Foley, Nebraska VR Advisor.

The Employer Services Committee members took action on the following:

- Selected the Entrepreneur of Distinction Annual Award winners.
- Provided feedback on the Progressive Employment Model and discussed how the regional Business Account Managers are assisting with the process.



April Isaacs—Unadilla

Employer Services Committee Chairperson — April Isaacs

April is the Human Resource Business Partner and Recruitment Specialist with Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

Transition Services Committee

Members: Pam Baltzer, Robert Danner, Gayle Hahn (Chair), Rita Hammitt, Seamus Kelly, JD Simmons, Susan Williams.

Angela Fujan, Nebraska VR Advisor.

The Transition Services Committee members provided input on the following topics:

- Broadened their focus to include intellectual/developmental disability and sheltered workshop areas to further address Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements.
- Reviewed the Nebraska VR Transition brochure to provide feedback and suggestions.



Gayle Hahn—Hastings

Transition Services Committee Chairperson — Gayle Hahn

Gayle is the Community Work Incentive Coordinator at Easter Seals Nebraska.



Seamus Kelly—Omaha

Seamus is the parent of a child with a disability. He was a member of the Transition Services Committee.



John McNally—Lincoln

John is the Deputy Director for the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and a member of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board. He served on the Employer Services Committee.



Brad Meurrens—Lincoln

Brad is a member of the Nebraska Independent Living Council. He was on the Client Services Committee.



Jonathan Moeller—Grand Island

Jonathan experiences a disability and received VR services. He served on the Client Services Committee.



Vicki Newman — Lincoln

Vicki was a former VR client and a small business owner. She served on the Employer Services Committee.



Leslie Novacek—Lincoln

Leslie is the Director of the Assistive Technology Partnership. She served on the Client Services Committee.



Kipp Ransom—Lincoln

Kipp is the Lead Counselor on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. He served as the SRC Chairperson and on the Client Services Committee.



Vicki Rasmussen—Lincoln

Vicki is the Director of the Nebraska Client Assistance Program (CAP). She was a member of the Client Services Committee.



Mark Schultz—Lincoln

Mark is the Director of Nebraska VR and a required member of the SRC. He served on the Employer Services Committee.



David Scott—LaVista

David is the Director of Sales for Embassy Suites Omaha-LaVista, a Project SEARCH site. He joined the SRC to share with others the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.



J.D. Simmons—Doniphan

J.D. is a Nebraska VR Employment Specialist in the Grand Island office. He served on the Transition Services Committee.



Susan Williams—Omaha

Susan works for PTI Nebraska (Parent Training and Information for Families of Children with Disabilities). She served on the Transition Services Committee.

Nebraska VR Funding

Every **\$1.00** appropriated to Nebraska VR from the State of Nebraska earns **\$3.69** in Federal Funding for services to Nebraskans with disabilities.



Return on Investment for the Nebraska VR Program

Average Cost of Nebraska VR Services per Person:	\$ 8,466.47
Average Annual Earnings after Nebraska VR Services:	\$ 19,355.85
Estimated Annual Taxes on Earnings:	
Federal Income Tax	\$ 927.15
State Income Tax	\$ 425.85
State/Local Sales Tax	\$ 284.00
Social Security Tax	\$ 1480.73
Average Total Taxes per Year	\$ 3117.73
Average Return to Taxpayers over 30 Remaining Years of Employment	\$ 93,531.90

On average, a successfully employed person returns **\$11.05** to the taxpayers for every **\$1** spent through Nebraska VR services.

Message from the Nebraska VR Director



Another year, another record number of individuals served who successfully achieved their employment goal! The efforts of Nebraska VR staff to meet our clients “where they are” is also capturing the attention of others. The National Council on Disability, in it’s National Disability Policy: A Progress Report [July 26, 2015], stated, “Collaboration between state agencies, between Nebraska VR and the employer community, and with VR clients themselves is a significant contributor to the success that Nebraska has demonstrated in promoting employment for people with disabilities within the state..... States could model Nebraska’s Meet You Where You Are approach to build similarly collaborative practices between their VR agencies and service consumer and employer constituencies.” The State Rehabilitation Council has been instrumental with their contributions to the vision behind this new approach to services.

Members have been influential in sharing the success of the Meet You Where You Are model with leaders and decision-makers through the WIOA Combined State Plan process. Thanks to the efforts of the SRC, the number of individuals with disabilities attending the workforce development focus groups was outstanding. Those in attendance made it clear they have an expectation of inclusion but also an expectation of results for ALL through core partner collaboration.

I appreciate the SRC for challenging us to continually improve to assure we respond to all the changes going on around us. Most recently the SRC looked down the road five years from now to envision a workforce development system that aligns VR’s goals with that of our core partners in Nebraska. My thanks to the SRC for challenging us all to work together, learn from each other, and put into place a system that assures the best service for Nebraskans with disabilities!

Mark Schultz, Director
Nebraska VR

Annual Program Costs

	Cost of Program
Administration	\$ 3,214,133.34

CLIENT SERVICES

	Cost of Program
Provided by VR Staff	\$ 11,647,048.48
Purchased from Community Rehab Programs	\$ 1,030,714.26
Purchased from Other Vendors	\$ 5,677,494.16
Total	\$ 18,355,256.90

PURCHASED FOR CLIENTS

	Cost of Program
Assessment	\$ 700,714.52
Diagnosis & Treatment of Impairments	\$ 72,296.98
Graduate College or University Training	\$ 15,880.00
Four-Year College or University Training	\$ 820,984.29
Junior or Community College Training	\$ 586,828.57
Occupational or Vocational Training	\$ 85,012.73
On-the-Job Training	\$ 66,253.42
Apprenticeship Training	\$ 91,842.10
Job Readiness Training	\$ 1,890.00
Disability Related Skills Training	\$ 1,340.00
Miscellaneous Training	\$ 124,620.72
On-the-Job Supports-Time Limited	\$ 215,128.90
On-the-Job Supports-Supported Emp	\$ 1,318,210.10
Transportation	\$ 347,157.32
Maintenance	\$ 198,797.05
Rehabilitation Technology	\$ 1,373,275.36
Reader	\$ 4,760.00
Interpreter	\$ 28,027.35
Technical Assistance	\$ 124,614.45
Benefits Counseling	\$ 236,722.12
All Other Services	\$ 293,852.45
Total	\$ 6,708,208.42

Nebraskans Served by Nebraska VR

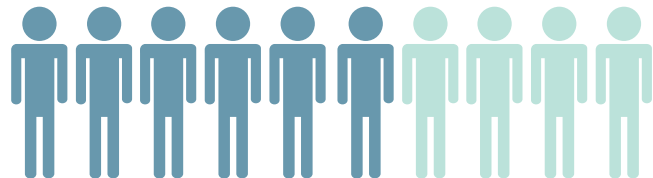
CONSUMERS SERVED BY COUNTY

County	Total	County	Total
Adams.....	217	Johnson	5
Antelope.....	25	Kearney.....	26
Arthur.....	0	Keith	19
Banner	1	Keya Paha	1
Blaine.....	2	Kimball	13
Boone	23	Knox	17
Box Butte.....	20	Lancaster	1465
Boyd	7	Lincoln	245
Brown	12	Logan.....	1
Buffalo	220	Loup	8
Burt.....	12	Madison.....	385
Butler.....	63	McPherson.....	5
Cass	36	Merrick.....	35
Cedar	24	Morrill	12
Chase.....	3	Nance.....	23
Cherry	4	Nemaha	14
Cheyenne.....	37	Nuckolls.....	16
Clay.....	32	Otoe.....	47
Colfax.....	30	Pawnee.....	10
Cuming	27	Perkins.....	6
Custer	60	Phelps.....	16
Dakota	44	Pierce.....	26
Dawes.....	20	Platte	278
Dawson.....	133	Polk	30
Deuel	5	Red Willow	42
Dixon	25	Richardson.....	20
Dodge.....	179	Rock.....	2
Douglas	1374	Saline.....	58
Dundy	0	Sarpy	237
Fillmore.....	27	Saunders	47
Franklin.....	8	Scotts Bluff.....	209
Frontier	12	Seward.....	62
Furnas.....	13	Sheridan	6
Gage	75	Sherman	12
Garden	0	Sioux.....	1
Garfield.....	20	Stanton.....	20
Gosper	16	Thayer.....	16
Grant.....	1	Thomas.....	3
Greeley.....	8	Thurston	39
Hall	342	Valley	14
Hamilton.....	20	Washington	39
Harlan	5	Wayne.....	37
Hayes.....	0	Webster	11
Hitchcock.....	9	Wheeler	4
Holt.....	50	York	85
Hooker.....	1	Out of state.....	70
Howard	18		
Jefferson	37		
		Total Served	7034

2015 NEBRASKA VR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Applied for Services	5,413
Received Services	7,034
Successfully Employed	2,168

SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED NEBRASKA VR CLIENTS



58% of clients are employed full-time.

Average wage for 2015 is **\$11.45**

2015 OCCUPATION & EARNINGS FOR COMPETITIVELY EMPLOYED CONSUMERS

Occupations	Percent	Average Hourly Earnings
Service	27.8%	\$9.04
Professional	14.8%	\$14.37
Office Support	14.1%	\$10.58
Sales	12.5%	\$9.64
Production	9.6%	\$11.53
Transportation & Material Moving	7.7%	\$11.43
Construction & Extraction	4.6%	\$12.71
Installation, Maintenance, & Repairs	4.0%	\$12.90
Management, Business, & Finance	2.9%	\$18.99
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	2.0%	\$11.78

Partnerships with Employers & Nebraska VR

SOME OF THE EMPLOYER PARTNERS WORKING WITH NEBRASKA VR

AGRICULTURE

Cargill
T&L Irrigation

BANKING/INSURANCE

First National Bank
United Bank & Trust

CAR MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Anderson Auto*
Certified Transmission*
Firestone*
Graham Tire*
Husker Auto Group*
Jensen Tire & Auto*
Jiffy Lube*
Kia Motors*
Pittman*
Sears Auto*
Southeast Community College*
Tires Plus*
TO Haas*
Walker Tire & Auto*

CLEANING SERVICES

ABM
Executive Janitorial

DISTRIBUTION

Amcon Distributing Co.
Walmart Distribution Center+

FOOD PROCESSING

Affiliated Foods
Hormel

FOOD STORES

Bag 'N Save
Gary's Super Foods
Hy-Vee
Safeway
Super Saver

HOTELS

Days Inn & Suites
Embassy Suites+
Hyatt

Ramada Inn

HUMAN SERVICES

Good Samaritan Society
Goodwill Ind. of Greater NE, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity
Simon House
United Way

YMCA

YWCA

HVAC

A-1 United*
Accurate Heating & Cooling*
DuctMedic*
Frazier Company*
Fred's Heating & Air*
SOS Heating & Air*
Standard Heating and Air*

INFORMATION SERVICES

InfoUSA (now Infogroup)
Lincoln Journal Star
Gallup
PayPal+

MANUFACTURING

Behlen Mfg. Co.
Columbus Hydraulics
Lindsay Manufacturing Co.

MANUFACTURING/WELDING

Access Electric*
Agri-Products*
Allmand Bros*
Bamsesberger Blacksmith & Welding*

Case New Holland CNH*

Chief Industries, Inc.*
Cyclonaire*
Donner Steel Works*
Filter Specialist Inc*
Heartland Electric*
IES Commercial Inc*
Klute Inc. Steel Fabrication*
Messersmith Electric*
Metal-Tech*
MFS/York/Stormor*
Mid-Plains Power*
Middleton Electric*
Standard Iron*
Valmont Industries+

MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE

Central District Health Dept.
CVS
Columbus Community Hospital+
Faith Regional Health Services+
Good Samaritan Hospital+
Home Instead Senior Care
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
Mary Lanning Hospital+
Mercy Medical Center+
Nebraska Medicine+
Omaha Children's Hospital+
Regional West Medical Center
St. Elizabeth-CHI Health+
St. Francis Medical Center+
University of NE Medical Center+
York General Health Care+

PHARMACEUTICALS

Novartis
Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc.
West Pharmaceuticals

RESTUARANTS/FOOD SERVICE

Applebee's
Catfish Corner
Dickey's Barbecue Pit
Five Guys Burgers & Fries
IHOP
Lincoln Highway Diner
Old Chicago
Panera Bread
Pizza Hut
Popeyes
Quaker Steak & Lube
Sodexo+

RETAIL

Best Buy
Bosselman's Travel Center
Cabela's Inc.+
Earl May
Gordmans
Hobby Lobby
Home Depot
Home Goods
Kmart
Lowe's
Marshalls
Menards
Oriental Trading Company
Orscheln
Petco
Staples
Target
TJ Maxx
Walgreens
Walmart Stores

* Certificate Program Partner

+ Project SEARCH Site Host

BUSINESS ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Nebraska VR expanded its services creating a new three-member Business Account Managers team to focus on providing new opportunities for people with disabilities and meeting the hiring needs of businesses in the Norfolk, Kearney, Grand Island and Omaha areas as well as surrounding counties.

Angela Korth of Norfolk, Cassy Kvasnicka of Kearney, and Lucas White of Omaha have a variety of business backgrounds as well as an understanding of the corporate environment which has helped Nebraska VR identify more employment opportunities for people with disabilities while meeting the hiring needs of businesses in these communities.

Nebraska VR

Successful People

ENTREPRENEUR OF DISTINCTION AWARDS OCTOBER 2014

The State Rehabilitation Council recognized three Nebraska business owners who received services from Nebraska VR with the 2014 Entrepreneur of Distinction Award.

Dan Hromas, owner of Prairie Pride Poultry, York. Hromas started his business in May 2013. Prairie Pride Poultry's growing business uses free range practices to cultivate an environment where "happy hens lay healthy eggs". Hromas, a US Marine Corps Veteran and an active member of the York Chamber of Commerce, donates eggs to many local events.

Lee Krumm, owner of Midwest Auto Salvage, Lincoln. Since March 2012, Krumm has more than doubled profits in his second year of business and plans to expand his business to sell parts. Krumm has donated a percentage of his profit to the Down's Syndrome Association.

Charlene Potter, owner of Rosewood Environmental Art, Omaha. Since Spring 2010, Potter has worked to turn her passion for art into a successful business. Potter volunteers and teaches art through Art in the Park for Kids and the South Sudan Community Association.

The 2014 Entrepreneur of Distinction Alumni Award was presented to two recipients. Each recipient was chosen because of their continued success and contributions to their communities.

Nathan Chandler, owner of 40 Nights Photography, Lincoln. Chandler received the 2010 Entrepreneur of Distinction. He uses a newsletter and an award system to generate referrals through previous clients. Chandler volunteers services at retirement communities in Omaha.

Jessica Goeden, owner of Healthy Paws, Norfolk. Since Goeden received the 2012 Entrepreneur of Distinction Award, she has relocated her business and continued to grow. Goeden is a Norfolk Chamber of Commerce member and is involved in many community events in Norfolk.



Front row left to right: Award recipients Lee Krumm, Nathan Chandler, Jessica Goeden, J.D. Simmons (for Dan Hromas), Leta Simms (for Charlene Potter), SRC Chairman Kipp Ransom. Second row NSES 's Christine Hess, Education Commissioner Matt Blomsteadt, and Nebraska VR Program Director Angela Fujan.



Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt spoke at the SRC sponsored event.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Columbus serves counties:

Butler, Colfax, Nance, Platte and Polk
3100 23rd Street, Ste. 5, Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 562-8065 V/TTY, (877) 505-0866 V/TTY
VR.InfoColumbus@nebraska.gov

Fremont serves counties:

Dodge
827 North D St , Fremont, NE 68025
(402) 727-2900 V, (888) 585-5439 V
VR.InfoFremont@nebraska.gov

Grand Island serves counties:

Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton,
Howard, Merrick, Nuckolls, Thayer, Webster, York
203 E Stolley Park Rd, Ste. B
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 385-6200 V/TTY, (800) 862-3382 V/TTY
VR.InfoGrandIsland@nebraska.gov

Kearney serves counties:

Blaine, Buffalo, Custer, Franklin, Furnas, Garfield,
Harlan, Kearney, Loup, Phelps, Sherman, Valley
315 W 60th Street, Ste 400, Kearney, NE 68845
(308) 865-5343 V/TTY, (800) 262-3382 V/TTY
VR.InfoKearney@nebraska.gov

Lincoln serves counties:

Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe,
Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward
3901 N 27th Street, Ste 6, Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 471-3231 V/TTY
(800) 472-3382 V/TTY
VR.InfoLincoln@nebraska.gov

Norfolk serves counties:

Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Cuming,
Dixon, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Rock,
Stanton, Wayne, Wheeler
1212 Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 370-3200 V/TTY, (800) 442-3382 V/TTY
VR.InfoNorfolk@nebraska.gov

North Platte serves counties:

Arthur, Chase, Cherry, Dawson, Dundy,
Frontier, Gosper, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith,
Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow, Thomas
200 South Silber, Bldg. #2, North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 535-8100 V/TTY, (800) 272-3382 V/TTY
VR.InfoNorthPlatte@nebraska.gov

Omaha-Downtown serves counties:

Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Washington
1313 Farnam on the Mall, Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 595-2100 V, (402) 595-2107 TTY
(800) 554-3382
VR.InfoOmahaDowntown@nebraska.gov

Omaha-West serves counties:

Douglas
12011 Q Street, Omaha, NE 68137
(402) 595-1212 V/TTY, (877) 240-4445 V/TTY
VR.InfoOmahaWest@nebraska.gov

Scottsbluff serves counties:

Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden,
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux
505A Broadway, Ste 500, Scottsbluff, NE 69361
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VR.InfoScottsbluff@nebraska.gov

South Sioux City serves counties:

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South Sioux City, NE 68776
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