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May 2024 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

Marketing-Nancy Noha

2024 promises to be a landmark year, planning is underway for several special events. We need your help; will you like our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't already? You will be set to get updates and can easily share the information with others.

Our [home page](#) also features space for a quick glance of events and updates.

Thank you for your support!



November 1, 2024 will be a special day for ATP! Thanks to Nebraska VR for writing the grant that established the Assistive Technology Project, later named the Assistive Technology Partnership!

Resource Coordination/Financial Programs – Angie Ransom

ATP staff continue to do outreach to programs for collaboration of services. The goal is to continually improve resources for individuals across Nebraska. ATP often receives requests that are outside of the scope of assistive technology or home/vehicle requests. Providing alternative suggestions is very valuable and impactful for consumer requests.

ATP Advisory Council meeting was held on Friday, April 12th. Allison Majerus presented on the upcoming titled "**Rescue and Reuse: a recycling/rehome event for durable medical equipment**". The first two events in 2024 will be held in July 2024 in Lincoln and Scottsbluff and in 2025, Kearney and Omaha will be hosting locations.

Enrichment Foundation Grant

The 2023 report was submitted to the EFG board. ATP staff continue to work on projects using this funding and focusing on co-funding with other programs, like NE VR, for completion of projects.



DHHS Program – May Faith [1/1/24 through 3/31/24]

During the first quarter of 2024, 131 projects were authorized, utilizing \$1,018,745.48 in AD Waiver funding, and 6 DD projects were authorized, utilizing \$61,353.78. These projects assisted 119 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers slowed slightly in January and February of 2024 which has provided some time to focus on getting caught up with existing referrals waiting for service. A note remains on the Service Coordinator referral webpage advising that the HHS/DD team continues to have a wait before being able to reach out to schedule assessments on new referrals. The Service Coordinator referral form has also been updated to reflect the addition of the TBI Waiver in November of 2023 and the Family Supports Waiver in March of 2024. As of April, no referrals have been submitted for either of those new waivers yet.

Education – Brian Wojcik

As part of the National AT Awareness celebration, ACL put out a blog post on AT and highlighted Nebraska's partnership between ATP and Nebraska Office of Special Education.

Applications have been received for the ATP-ED Equipment Manager position and interviews are scheduled. By the time this report is being read, hopefully we will have a new member on the ATP-Ed team.

ATP-Ed is just finishing up this year's AT Cadre where 21 individuals from across the state participated in intensive technical assistance over a 9 month period. At the end of the Cadre each participant as part of their final project is supposed to show how they will bring what they learned back to their school/district to improve how children/students receive assistive technology.

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 iCC cases in Nebraska.

The iCC Program Supervisor recently completed the annual audit for the last fiscal year. Outreach efforts have been successful and the program has been very busy this year. A recent Nebraska iCC client did have their story of working with our iCC program and staff featured on the iCC National website and you can read her empowering story here- <https://www.icanconnect.org/connecting-despite-the-challenges-a-nebraska-womans-story-of-empowerment-through-icanconnect/>



Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 57 service requests from 1/04/2024 to 4/09/2024. Of those 57 service requests, 10 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, 4 were for Pre-ETS including 1 Project SEARCH intern, 42 were for adult VR clients and 1 was for a CPAP client. The 57 service requests received were for the following equipment: ADL equipment (2), cognitive aids (12), bicycle (1), ergonomics (8), vehicle modifications and repairs (10), hearing devices (2), mobility devices and repairs (2), communication devices (2), computer/software (1), worksite AT (14), other home modifications (1), kitchen modifications (1), and vision devices (1).

The ATP/VR Technology Specialists have all been very busy this Spring with Job Expos throughout the state being held for transition students. ATP staff attend these Job Expos and Transition Summits that are coordinated by the ESUs and do a presentation to the staff and students and/or have a booth to provide information about ATP services and demonstrate technology. Staff also have kept busy partnering with Project SEARCH sites through the state, attending Skills Day and Parent's Nights to help select the next incoming class, as well as participating in Business Advisory Council meetings for outreach and community support. This school year has flown by; this time of year we look forward to working with students heading to college or a training program in the Fall to help them identify technology to be successful in their education and future vocational goals.

General Update -Tobias Orr

ATP has partnered with the Nebraska Recycling Council along with others to host 4 reuse events across the state over the next 12 months. The event is titled "Rescue and Reuse – a recycling/rehome event for durable medical equipment". The main funding for the events is provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The event in Lincoln will be held as part of the Disability Pride event on July 27th at Antelope Park. The following month in Scottsbluff we will be holding an event on August 8th, 9th, and 10th. Next Spring we will hold one in Kearney and Omaha. This will be an opportunity for people to donate assistive technology and durable medical equipment so that it can be reused by someone if in good working order, or properly recycled. Each event will have a couple days for drop off, and then one day for pick up. There will be no cost for the equipment. For larger items, funding has been set aside to hire a moving company to come and pick up items on pre-arranged day and time.





State Rehabilitation Council
Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report
MAY 2024

Reported increase from 8 to about 15 cap case but many far into resolution and in a monitoring status.

CAP willing be working on its program manual that will include guidelines about CAP case closures and length of monitoring. Other program manual topics examples include intake process & orientation, Requesting Records and methods.

Themes of recent CAP cases: timeliness and communication about services, self-employment, and decreased or no Supported Employment access.

- Timeliness and communication about services- Individuals are needing things explained in more detail with visuals provided when available and having reminders more often on where they started and where they are in the process to help understand a potential timeline. In addition, making sure that VR staff are engaging with clients and educating clients on their role and responsibility including self-advocacy and making informed choices. More reminders may be needed when a VR Pre-Employment Transition student begins to access VR Employment services to understand the difference and level of supports provided.
- Self-employment- Very detailed process and interpretations can vary widely while assessing on a case-by-case basis. Again, client advocating for more information on the process and visuals would be helpful, reminders about the process and progress. VR staff have been flexible and willing to update processes quickly without much CAP intervention. Clients would like to be included more in the decision-making process and rationale. Clients have been passionate about their businesses and self-advocacy.
- Decreased or no Supported Employment access- Especially in rural areas have very limited providers which can affect quality services by providers contacted with VR. SE program director has developed more training for job coaches emphasizing evidence-based practice, supported employment. This is not an issue specific to Nebraska. The CAP network in other states have expressed these difficulties as well.

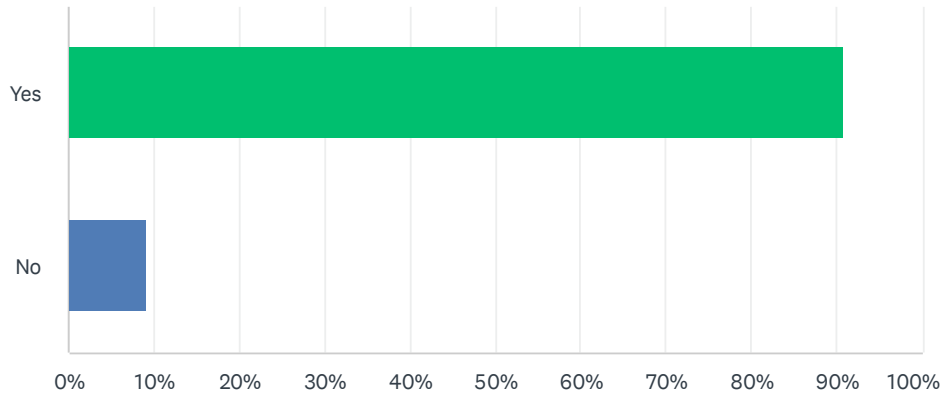


VR office directors requested that they be alerted when a CAP case is initiated via email. CAP agreed to change. VR counselors and Office directors have been very open to feedback, flexible and accessible. I have also seen quick changes in VR policy from a CAP case. This appears that VR are listening to client feedback and willing to adjust.

CAP staff met with Winnebago Tribal VR staff, Amy Lapointe and Alvin Parker, on 4/30/2024 to share about CAP and Tribal VR progress.

Q1 Are you currently employed?

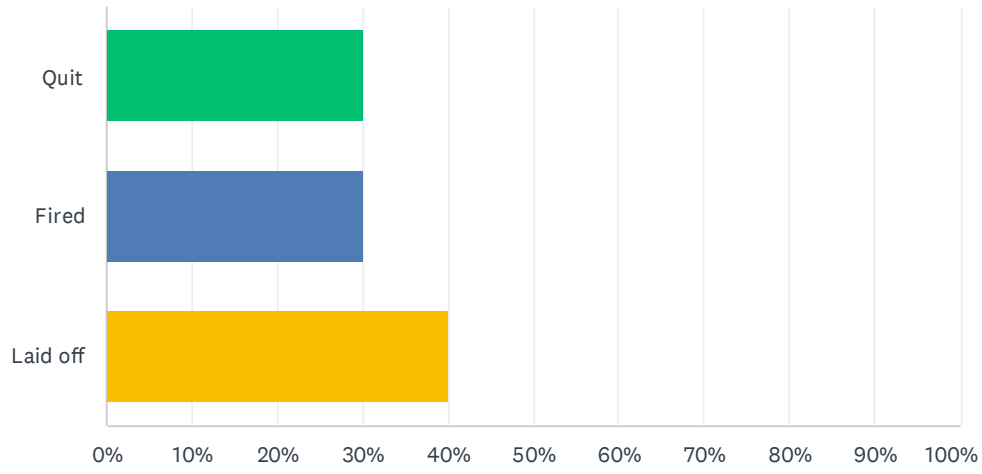
Answered: 108 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	90.74% 98
No	9.26% 10
TOTAL	108

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

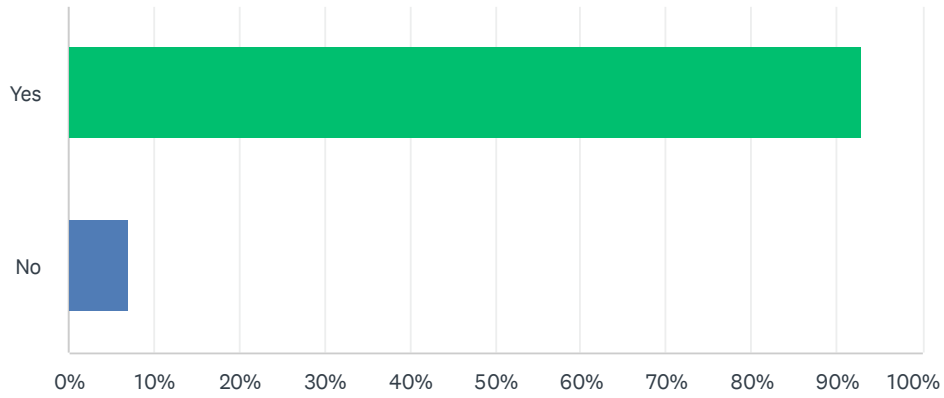
Answered: 10 Skipped: 98



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Quit	30.00% 3
Fired	30.00% 3
Laid off	40.00% 4
TOTAL	10

Q4 Does your job meet your current needs?

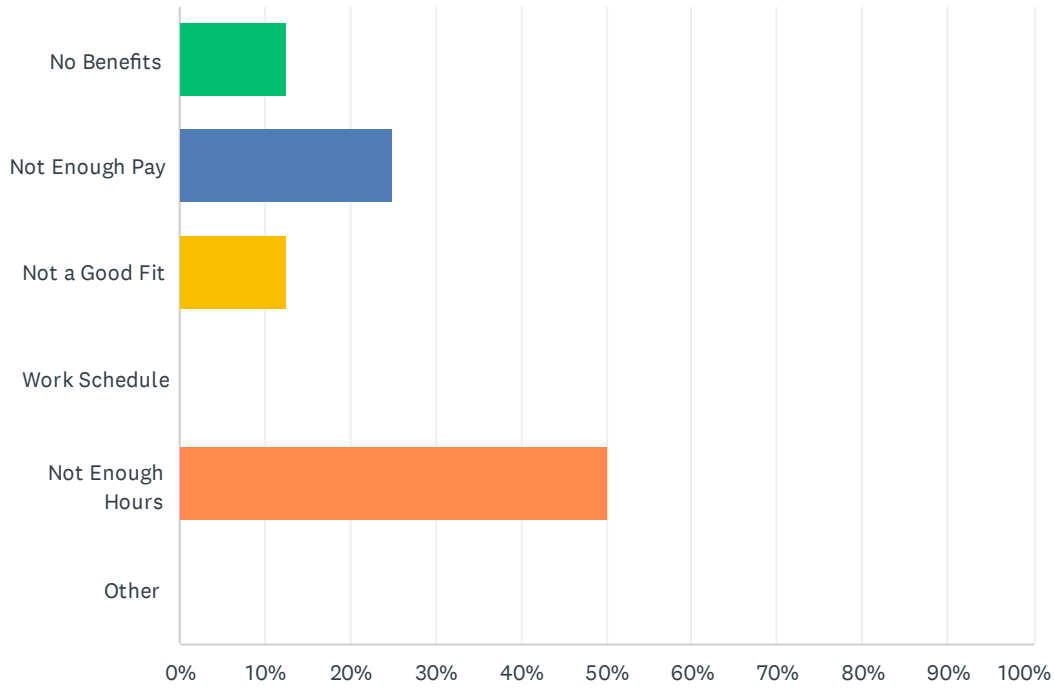
Answered: 98 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.86%	91
No	7.14%	7
TOTAL		98

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

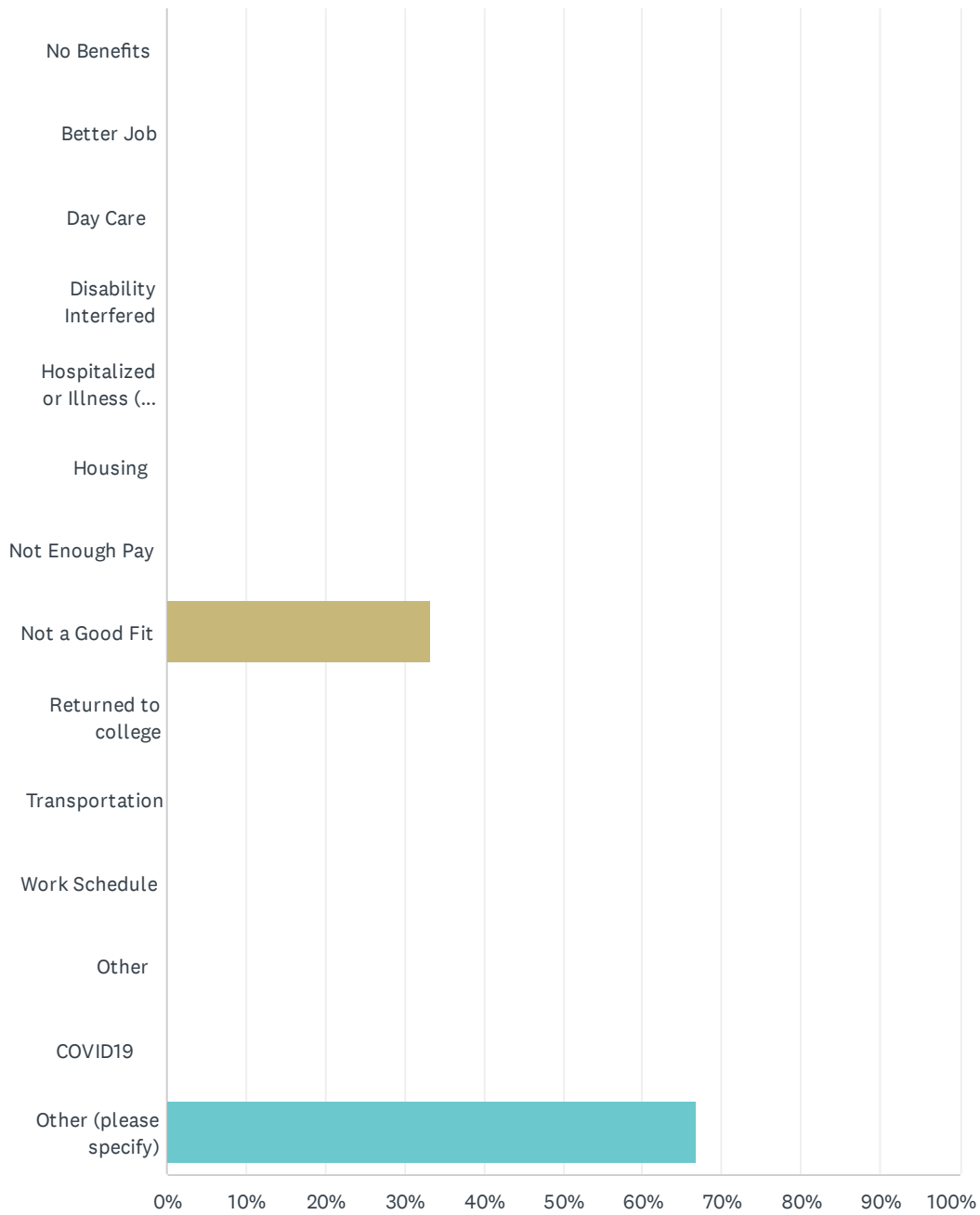
Answered: 8 Skipped: 100



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No Benefits	12.50% 1
Not Enough Pay	25.00% 2
Not a Good Fit	12.50% 1
Work Schedule	0.00% 0
Not Enough Hours	50.00% 4
Other	0.00% 0
TOTAL	8

Q7 Can you tell me why you (quit)?

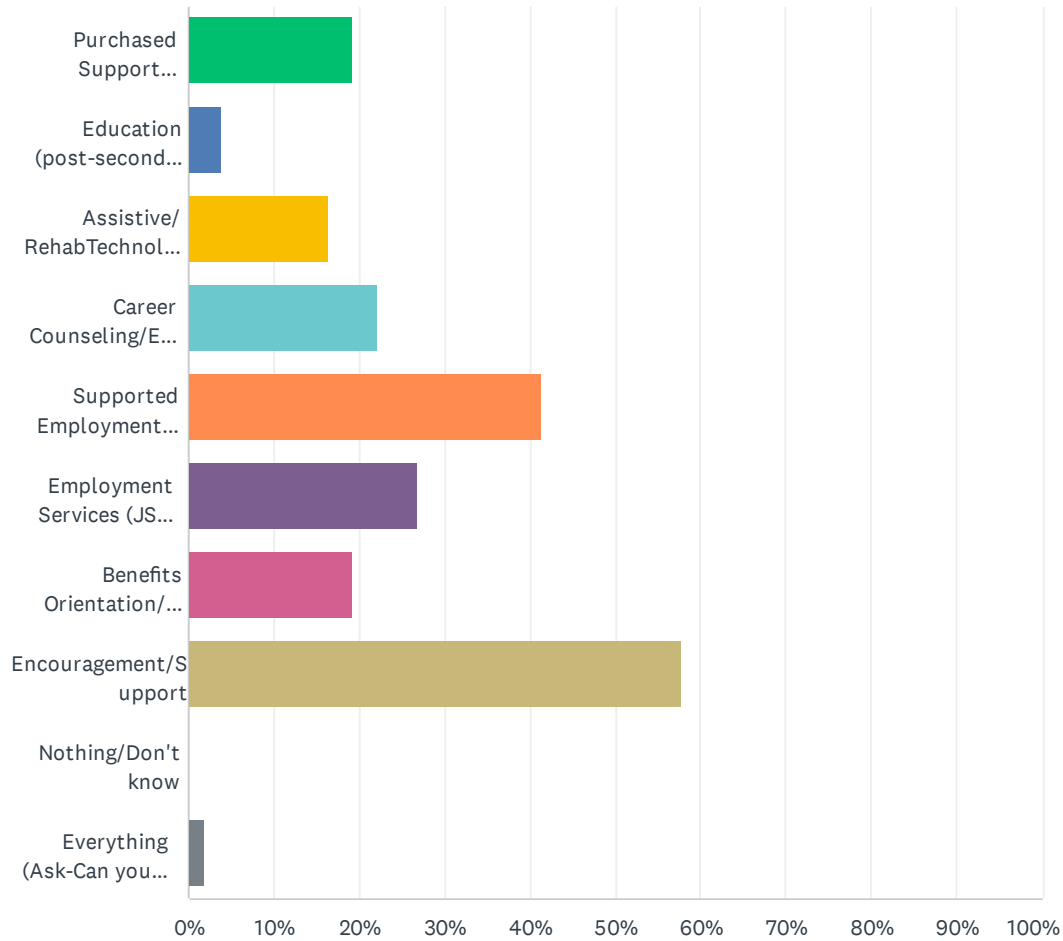
Answered: 3 Skipped: 105



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	33.33%	1
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)	66.67%	2
TOTAL		3

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

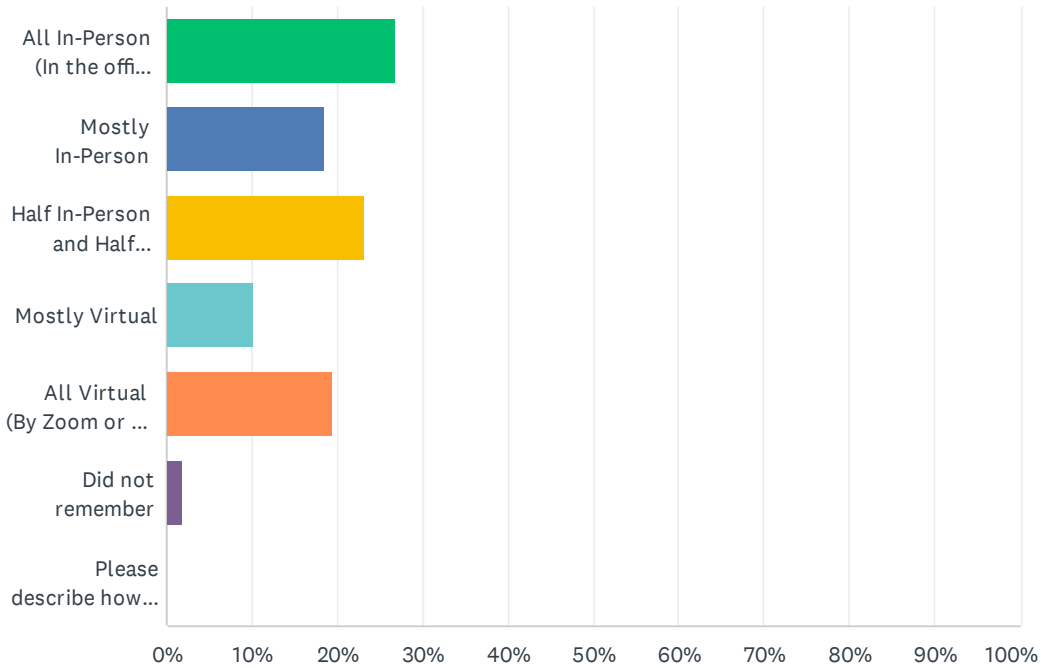
Answered: 104 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)	19.23%	20
Education (post-secondary training)	3.85%	4
Assistive/ RehabTechnology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods)	16.35%	17
Career Counseling/Evaluation (Career planning, vocational evaluation, etc.)	22.12%	23
Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc.)	41.35%	43
Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)	26.92%	28
Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis	19.23%	20
Encouragement/Support	57.69%	60
Nothing/Don't know	0.00%	0
Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)	1.92%	2
Total Respondents: 104		

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

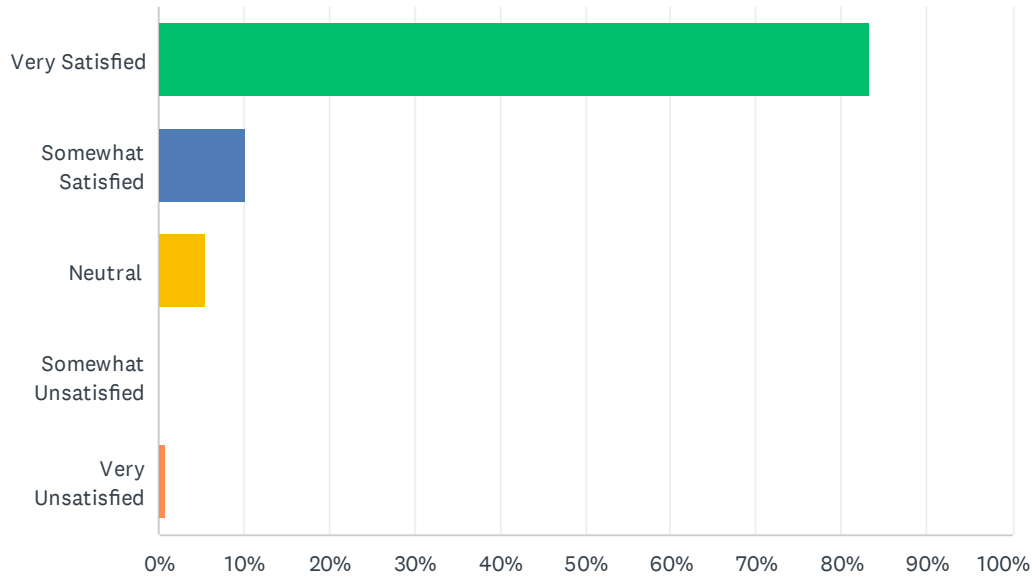
Answered: 108 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
All In-Person (In the office or at a location in the community.)	26.85%	29
Mostly In-Person	18.52%	20
Half In-Person and Half Virtual	23.15%	25
Mostly Virtual	10.19%	11
All Virtual (By Zoom or by phone.)	19.44%	21
Did not remember	1.85%	2
Please describe how satisf	0.00%	0
TOTAL		108

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

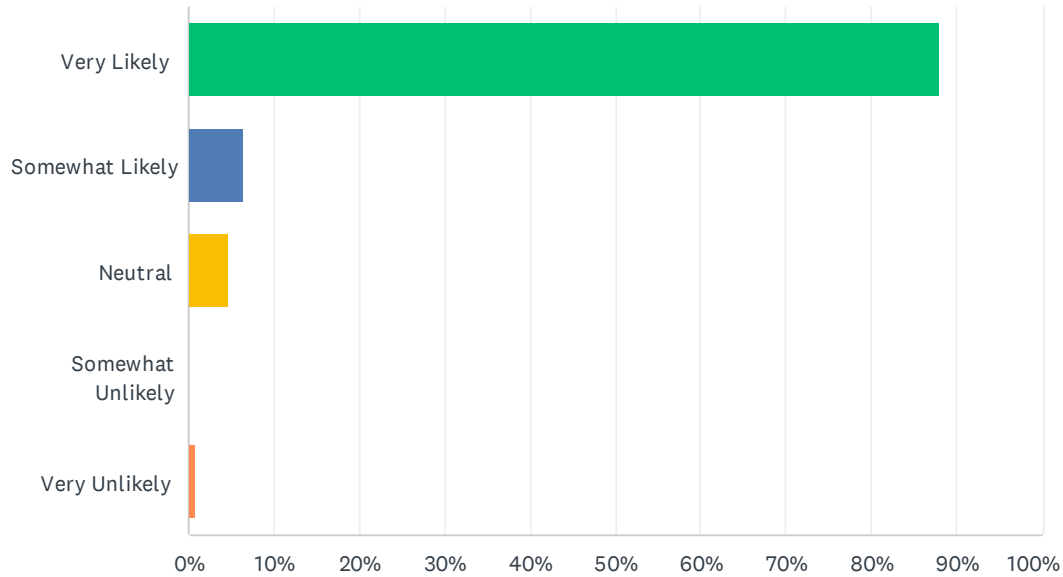
Answered: 108 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	83.33%	90
Somewhat Satisfied	10.19%	11
Neutral	5.56%	6
Somewhat Unsatisfied	0.00%	0
Very Unsatisfied	0.93%	1
TOTAL		108

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

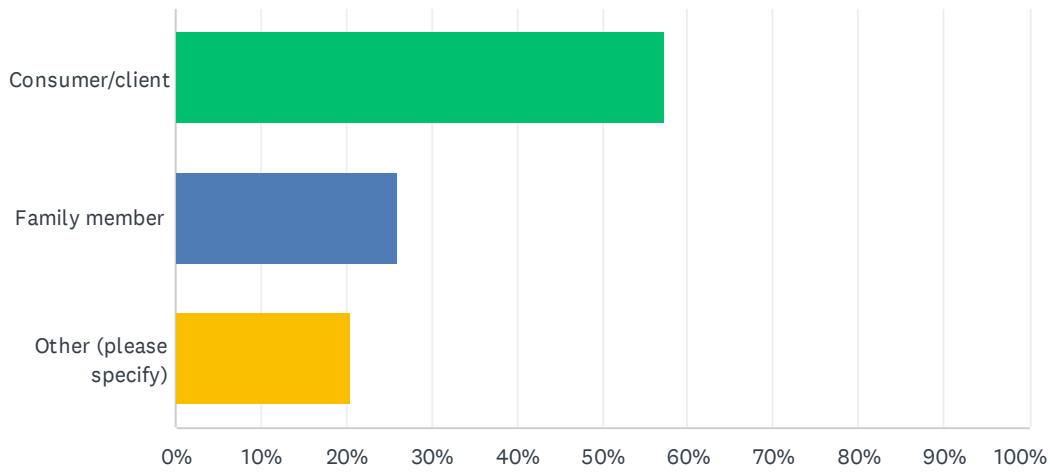
Answered: 108 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Likely	87.96%	95
Somewhat Likely	6.48%	7
Neutral	4.63%	5
Somewhat Unlikely	0.00%	0
Very Unlikely	0.93%	1
TOTAL		108

Q16 Who did you talk with?

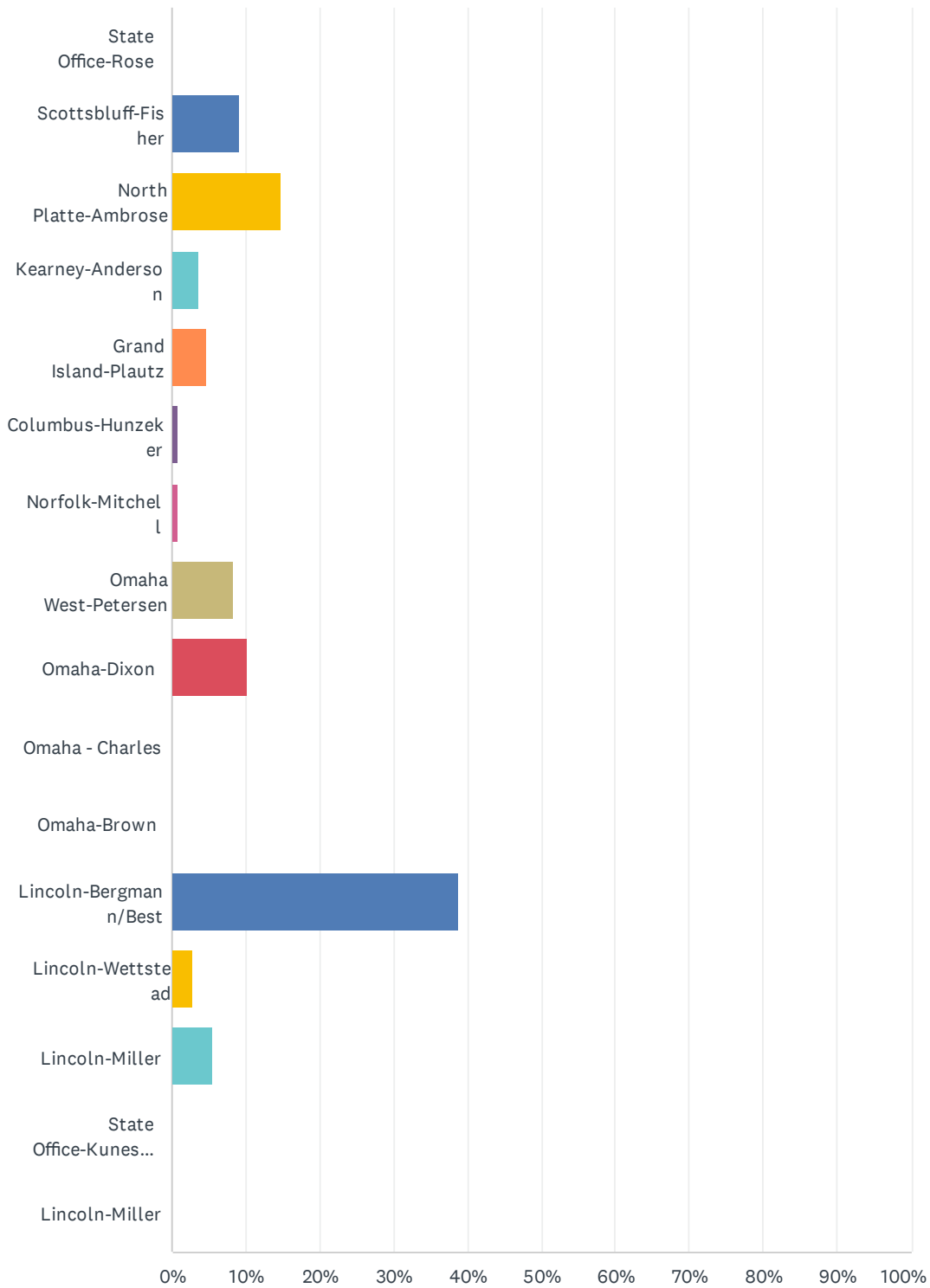
Answered: 108 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Consumer/client	57.41% 62
Family member	25.93% 28
Other (please specify)	20.37% 22
Total Respondents: 108	

Q17 Which VR Team served this client?

Answered: 108 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
State Office-Rose	0.00%	0
Scottsbluff-Fisher	9.26%	10
North Platte-Ambrose	14.81%	16
Kearney-Anderson	3.70%	4
Grand Island-Plautz	4.63%	5
Columbus-Hunzeker	0.93%	1
Norfolk-Mitchell	0.93%	1
Omaha West-Petersen	8.33%	9
Omaha-Dixon	10.19%	11
Omaha - Charles	0.00%	0
Omaha-Brown	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Bergmann/Best	38.89%	42
Lincoln-Wettstead	2.78%	3
Lincoln-Miller	5.56%	6
State Office-Kunes-Neary	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%	0
TOTAL		108

Client Satisfaction Survey Quarter 2 2023/2024 YTD Comparison

	FY22-23 Quarter 2 YTD	FY23-24 Quarter 2 YTD
Surveys Completed	87	108
% Still Employed	97.70%	90.74%
Why Not Employed	Quit – 100% (2)	Laid Off- 40% (4) Quit- 30% (3) Fired- 30% (3)
Job Meets Current Needs	96.47%	92.86%
Most Helpful Service	Encouragement Support 83.91% Employment Services 42.53% Assistive/Rehab Technology 31.03%	Encouragement/Support 57.69% Supported Employment 41.35% Employment Services 26.92%
Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member	97.70%	94.44%

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

Our Executive Director resigned in December and the position has currently not been filled. We also have openings for a Behavior Coordinator or Interpreter Coordinator.



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NYLC SRC Report MAY 7, 2024

NYLC welcomed new member Kadee Leubbe of Hordsville, NE.

Jan – April NYLC events.

Thursday Thread Virtual Meeting- dates/agenda items:

Date	Members Attending	Activity
Jan. 11,	6	<p>The Year in Review We looked at Kathy’s ppt. about all that we have done this year. Enjoyed the memories and talked about what we need to do at our next Thursday Thread. This will be the All State meeting in which we create goals for 2024. We want to build on our strengths.</p>
Jan. 25	5	<p>2024 Goals Meeting</p> <p>Discussion Questions...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does NYLC do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We advocate for people with disability (Seth) ▪ We share how important self advocacy is ▪ We normalize disability ○ How does this help others? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better acceptance in the community ○ What are our strengths? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are willing to share with others ○ What do we need to work on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need to create projects that invite people into NYLC ▪ We need to do things together
Feb. 8	8	<p>Ice Breaker Question: Our Wishes/Goals</p> <p>Noah: Would like to be a champion for track throwing the shot put</p> <p>Kaila: Wants to write an anima book using her artistic skills. She would also like to begin selling her stuffed octopus that she makes</p> <p>Kadee: Wants to get a seeing eye dog. She has to learn certain skills before that can happen and she will need to be able to afford the dog.</p> <p>Macy: Wants to eat better and exercise more.</p> <p>Mark: Would like to skydive and visit Japan</p> <p>Molly & Sophia had to sign off before we could hear their goals.</p>



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		<p>Guest Speaker, Mary Ingram, Founder of Volunteer Nebraska, Inc.</p> <p>Mary shared with the youth how GPS for Life will help you reach your goals.</p>
Feb. 22	9	<p>Game Night We had fun visiting with each other and sharing current news about our lives. Kaila will be moving into her own apartment soon. She is looking forward to this change with both excitement and a little anxiety. We had a guest from Kearney try us on. His name is Josh and he is a senior at Kearney HS. Josh I hope you join NYLC! We played 20 questions and What’s That Sound. Had a few laughs at our answers..</p> <p>“What is the Sound?”</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1m4h79JZso&t=9s</p> <p>Twenty Questions</p> <p>https://www.thegamegal.com/word-generator/</p>
Mar. 28	2	<p>We have a quorum of 4 members to hold a meeting. We enjoyed talking to each other and played “The Game of Things!”</p>
Apr. 11	5	<p>Summer Conference will be June 14-15. Shared about key note speaker, Mary Ingram. Discussed what the members wanted to experience at the conference.</p>

NYLC Presentations/Out-reach

Date	Members Attending	What
Feb. 21		Recruiting presentation at Kearney HS
Feb. 28	1	Individual Meeting with Member Seth Kadlec to create personal presentation
Mar. 11	1	Individual Meeting with member Kadee Leubbe to create personal presentation
Mar. 13		Recruiting presentation at Diller/Odell HS
Mar. 15		Recruiting presentation at Tecumseh HS
Mar. 21	3	Seth Kadlec, Kadee Leubbe, & Jess Elsberry Key note speakers at ESU 10 Youth First Conference
Mar. 21		Information Table OPS Parent Resource Fair Omaha, NE
Apr. 4-5		Information Table at ASD Conference Kearney NE.



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Mar. 21 key note speakers at ESU 10 Youth First Conference in Aurora NE. back row: Kathy Lloyd, front row: Jess Elsberry, Kadee Leubbe, Seth Kadlec.



The relief of a job well done! Kadee & Seth.

NESILC Report
for the May 7, 2024 SRC Meeting

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the NESILC at the present time!

We are currently working on the 2024 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), updating and making recommendations toward the final draft.

We have had two individuals step down from the NESILC recently. We have also had three individuals interviewed for positions on the NESILC and the request for approval from the governor's office has been submitted!! We look forward to working with these individuals in the coming months!

The NESILC representative to the SRC is now Christine Gaspari from Kearney. Chris has been on the SRC in the past and is looking forward to working with the group again!

The NESILC has a new DSE and are working with them to get all the details worked out and to get our budget and all expenditures updated and taken care of.

The NESILC has recently gone to a "virtual office" situation as it is not required that we have a brick and mortar situation.

Be on the lookout in the next few months for some changes and updates on our Facebook and web page.

Nebraska WIOA Common Performance Measure Progress & Targets
Nebraska VR and NCBVI
Spring 2024 Team Tour

WIOA Performance Indicators-Nebraska	2019	2020	2021	2022	2024 RSA Targets	2025 RSA Targets
MSG	31.8%	61.3%	54.6%	40.3% (34.7)	61.5%	62.5%
Employment Rate- Q2	64.4%	58.5%	61.6%	62.2% (63.2)	62.5%	63.0%
Median Earnings- Q2 after exit	\$4,445	\$5,057	\$4,180	\$3,542 (\$3,438)	\$5,058	\$5,500
Employment Rate- Q4	62.7%	57.4%	58.6%	61.5% (63.3%)	61.6%	62.0%
CA	18.4%	31.7%	43.1%	43.6% (43.0%)	43.7%	44.2%

WIOA Performance Indicators

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Measurable Skill Gains Rate	29.0%	26.0%	31.8%	61.3%	54.6%	40.3%
Employment Rate - 2nd Quarter After Exit	-	9.6%	64.4%	58.5%	61.6%	62.2%
Median Earnings - 2nd Quarter After Exit	-	\$4,208	\$4,445	\$5,057	\$4,180	\$3,542
Employment Rate - 4th Quarter After Exit	-	-	62.7%	57.4%	58.6%	61.5%
Credential Attainment Rate	-	-	18.4%	31.7%	43.1%	43.6%

WIOA Performance Indicators NE-G

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Measurable Skill Gains Rate	24.3%	19.6%	18.9%	59.2%	51.3%	34.7%
Employment Rate - 2nd Quarter After Exit		63.9%	65.9%	61.8%	63.1%	63.2%
Median Earnings - 2nd Quarter After Exit		\$4,172	\$4,436	\$4,638	\$4,085	\$3,468
Employment Rate - 4th Quarter After Exit			64.7%	60.0%	61.4%	63.3%
Credential Attainment Rate			18.4%	31.6%	43.6%	43.0%