**State Of Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS)**

**Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB)**

**Statewide Committee of Blind Vendors Annual Meeting**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**September 9th, 2024**

**Members Present:**

**Chairman Mr. Keith Haley, Vice Chairman Mr. Rich Braccia, Mr. Karan Punjabi, Mr. David Pelaggi, Mr. Angel Torres, Ms. Brandy Altergott, Ms. Shelly McDermott, Mr. Tony Ford, Mr. Kevin Doyle**

**Others Present:**

**Mr. Tyrell Sampson, Program Supervisor, Ms. Tracy Morin, Mr. David Walshe, Ms. Jessie Towle, Mr. Joel Garcia, Mr. Frank Roberts, Mr. Nicholas Faenza, Mr. Adam Fairbanks, Ms. Yolanda Doak, Ms. Ashley Morgan**

**Managers Absent:**

**Ms. Barbara Miller, Ms. Sovey Ramirez, Mr. Amos Fatorma, Mr. Keith Deleo**

**Mr. Tyrell Sampson called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**The meeting minutes for June 4th, July 16th, and August 20th, 2024.**

**MOTION: Mr. David Pelaggi moved to accept the meeting minutes for June 4th, July 16th, and August 20th, 2024, and Ms. Brandy Altergott seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Yes – 9, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Vending Route Update**

**Mr. Tyrell Sampson stated in regard to the vending routes, he is looking to finalize the language of the draft for this that was discussed at the last meeting. A proposal for these routes to a more formal one to include some additional language should go to the committee in the next week or so. October 1st, 2024, is the date that Mr. Sampson would like to make everything official as this is the start of the new Federal Fiscal Year. He will send out emails regarding this and the permanency of the vending routes to committee members and the field reps to ensure that conversations had via the email aren’t missed and that responses are made in a timely manner.**

**Statewide Vending Machine Contract Sub-Committee**

**Mr. Tyrell Sampson stated that emails will be going out probably on Monday, stating the individuals who have expressed interest in the vending opportunity partnerships and the micro markets. With that said he stated there are individuals that are actively on the committees that have expressed interest so with that he will have to have Chairman Haley and Vice Chairman Braccia create a subcommittee to work with establishing such operator or operators for the two upcoming opportunities.**

**Case Rebate Reallocation of Funds Committee Vote**

**Mr. Sampson discussed that as a mutual agreement several years ago that the case rebate reallocation of funds was brought up at every annual meeting to give operators who have over the counter facilities the opportunity to retain the $2.00 case rebate in which we currently receive directly from Pepsi into the agency, but to essentially reallocate those funds directly to those operators who operate over the counter opportunities. This should be a determination or thought as long as the budget should sustain the allowance, which he stated it does in this current fiscal year. With that being said, he is in favor of reallocating the funds and forwarded the conversation over to Chairman Haley. Chairman Haley also recommended the case rebate be reallocated to the operator of those facilities.**

**MOTION: Ms. Brandy Altergott moved to reallocate the vending rebates to each individual operator, which was seconded by Mr. David Pelaggi.**

**Vote: Yes – 9, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**NFBEI- Renewal Federal Fiscal Year Vote**

**Chairman Haley discussed the National Federation of the Blind Entrepreneurs Initiative (NFBEI) and Mr. Terry Smith. NFBEI offers support to states throughout the year. They do annual training as well. Chairman Haley stated this is a great partnership and if members wanted to go, they could to these meetings and trainings. Membership has gone up and Chairman Haley feels it is in the interest of BEP to renew this if the budget allows.**

**MOTION: Ms. Brandy Altergott moved to renew membership in the NFBEI program, seconded by Mr. Karan Punjabi.**

**Vote: Yes – 9, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**Proposed meeting dates for FY 2025**

**The proposed meeting dates for FY 2025, March 11th, June 10th, September 9th, and December 9th, 2025 (the second Tuesday of the month), were named the 2025 meeting dates.**

**Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Mr. David Pelaggi, seconded by Mr. Karan Punjabi.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.**