



## Supported Employment Committee 03-16-2022

**Attendees:** Becki Koehler, Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska; Laurie Ackerman, Ollie Webb; Kristen Larsen, NCDD; Dr. Lisa Mills; Alana Schriver, NASP

1. Nebraska's state budget bill is currently in debate on the senate floor. Group discussed Sen. Arch (chairman of HHS committee) stating that language should be inserted that would require rate increase to go only towards staff salaries. Committee discussed how much funding is desperately needed to address margin losses, not just staff salaries, as well as inflation (gas, food), etc.
2. VR announced upcoming changes to Milestone 4. Training on these changes is scheduled. We are not sure what these changes will entail yet, so attending the training will be important.
3. Despite there being a public comment period for Division policy changes, providers do not feel their public comments are being heard and many people are too busy keeping the doors open to advocate strongly.
4. Dr. Lisa Mills' NCDD study updates
  - a. Data collection is underway
  - b. Providers have reached out for technical assistance
  - c. One provider pulled out because he did not want to add to his job coach's workload
  - d. Progressing with interviews
    - i. VR Director, Angie Gonzales-Dorn, a family, for example
5. Discussion on separation of provider and place of employment
  - a. Goodwill had 4 individuals in services who were working in the retail stores. The State determined these individuals must either change jobs or change providers. The State called the families before speaking with Goodwill, so families were upset and confused.
  - b. Goodwill was told they would need to get another tax ID number for their retail stores if they wanted to continue employing people in their vocation services.
  - c. Other states also require separation of employer/service providers.
  - d. Is there a different way to assure no repercussions (such as loss of job if changing providers) or exploitation?
  - e. Ollie Webb had a similar example with a person in services employed as a receptionist. This person handled financial documents for the agency, and there is a concern that a job coach from another agency would then see private documents.
  - f. This ruling seems to have come out of the blue.
  - g. Who is on DDD's policy team currently? Staff turnover has caused confusion as to who does what at DDD now.
6. National webinar I mentioned: March 22nd. Sponsored by federal partners (long list of alphabet soup but CMS, DOL, ACL, ODEP, RSA, OSEP, SAMHSA are some) - <https://www.addevent.com/event/tk12234455>
  - a. Colorado, NC, and AZ featured.