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## **February 2025 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report**

### **Resource Coordination/Financial Programs – Angie Ransom**

ATP received 49 new Service and Device Applications (S&D) from October 2024 to the end of the year. Of the S&D's received, Omaha Metro (17), Lincoln (7), Columbus (2), and the rest across the state. A review of the S&D will be done in early 2025 to update the form for needed changes and accessibility.

The ATP Advisory Council 2025 meetings are set for Friday, April 18, 2025, and Friday September 19, 2025. The council voted in Paulette Monthei as Council Chair and Christine Gaspari as Vice Chair.

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant**

ATP received the Enrichment Foundation Grant for 2025 in the amount of \$200,000.00. This grant will be used for projects in the Douglas and Sarpy County areas. Projects will be assigned when a Service and Device application is received and an appropriate assistive technology request is needed. The goal is to utilize the grant funding for assistive technology needs that are not covered by other resources. Projects have a possible grant amount up to \$10,000.00. Projects will be assigned to an ATP Technology Specialist and provide project oversight and completion. This is the same model as NE VR and Medicaid Waiver projects.

### **DHHS Program – May Faith [9/13/24 through 12/31/24]**

235 projects were authorized, utilizing \$1,843,532.71 in AD Waiver, TBI Waiver, Family Supports Waiver, and DD Waiver projects were authorized. These projects assisted 196 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers continued to remain high during the months reported on resulting in continued longer wait times for assessment services. 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. DD has requested that more outreach be done to identify to consumers when a referral has been received.

In November the first Family Supports Waiver project was authorized and in December ATP authorized its first TBI Waiver project. Family Supports Waiver referrals continue to flow in and navigating the requirements of the new waiver is taking a bit of time and training for all staff involved with these projects.



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## **Education – Brian Wojcik**

Here are some statistics from the ATP-Education program as of 1/8/2024:

### **Loan Requests** (Note we are 52% of the way through the school year)

Since July 1, 2024:

We are at 64.7% (N=548) of the total loans made in FY 24 (N=847)

We have loaned out \$276,528.54 worth of equipment to determine AT needs of students, short-term accommodations, or professional development (Non-ATP Education Staff Borrowed).

Since 7/1/2024, ATP Education Staff have showcased/demonstrated/provided training on 937 items (value of \$318,635.58) for professional development purposes

### **Education Requests**

Since July 1, 2024, we have had 91 Education Requests, which is 66% of the total education requests in FY 24 (N=138).

The ATP-Education team is still down one staff. This position should be posted shortly.

### **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 and 1 new applicant in the process of applying who was a referral from NCBVI.

iCanConnect has some upcoming community presentations including one at the Advocacy Specialist Collaboration Meeting with staff from the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Program Supervisor will also be a guest at Radio Talking Book Service and will complete an interview regarding ATP and the various programs we provide including iCanConnect. Planning is also starting for a train the trainer event in the Spring where all Nebraska iCC staff from throughout the state can get together to discuss program changes, updates, and learn about new technology for individuals who are deaf blind.

### **Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie**

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 97 service requests from 9/12/2024 to 1/09/2025. Of those 97 service requests, 12 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, 7 were for Pre-ETS, 4 were Project SEARCH interns, 3 were VR/HHS, 5 were VR/EFG, 62 were for adult VR clients and 4 were for CPAP clients. The 97 service requests received were for the following equipment: ADLs (2), cognitive aids (27),



ergonomics (17), lifts (2), vehicle modifications and repairs (16), hearing devices (2), communication devices (2), worksite AT (22), bathroom modifications (1), mobility devices (4), and other home modifications (2).

The ATP Program Supervisor has been out in the community attending various presentations and resource fairs the past few months. This included a presentation to transition staff at JP Lord Elementary partnering with the ATP Education team, the Disability Organizations Together Serve (DOTS) meeting in October, the ESU 3 Job Expo to transition students as well as various Project SEARCH sites throughout the area. There was also a transition fair for teachers at ESU 3 during the day on October 15th, as well as a community/parent resource fair at night where ATP held a booth to discuss services and showcase examples of AT to those in attendance.

#### **General Update –Tobias Orr**

This coming March ATP will be partnering with the Nebraska Recycling Council and others to host an Equipment Reuse Event in Kearney NE. The following month we will be participating in another reuse event in the Omaha area. (see below for details).

### **2025 EVENTS**

#### **Kearney Rescue and Reuse Event:**

Equipment Drop-off Days:

Monday–Wednesday, March 17–19, 2025 from 8 am–4 pm

Equipment Rehome Day:

Friday, March 21, 2025 from 8 am– 2pm

Event Location: City of Kearney Recycling Center, 3007 E 39th Street, Kearney, NE

[Need moving assistance for equipment donations in the Kearney area?](#)

#### **Omaha Rescue and Reuse Event:**

Equipment Drop-off Days:

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 8–9 (12–5 pm)

Thursday, April 10 (12–7 pm)

Friday, April 11 (8 am–noon)

Equipment Rehome Day:

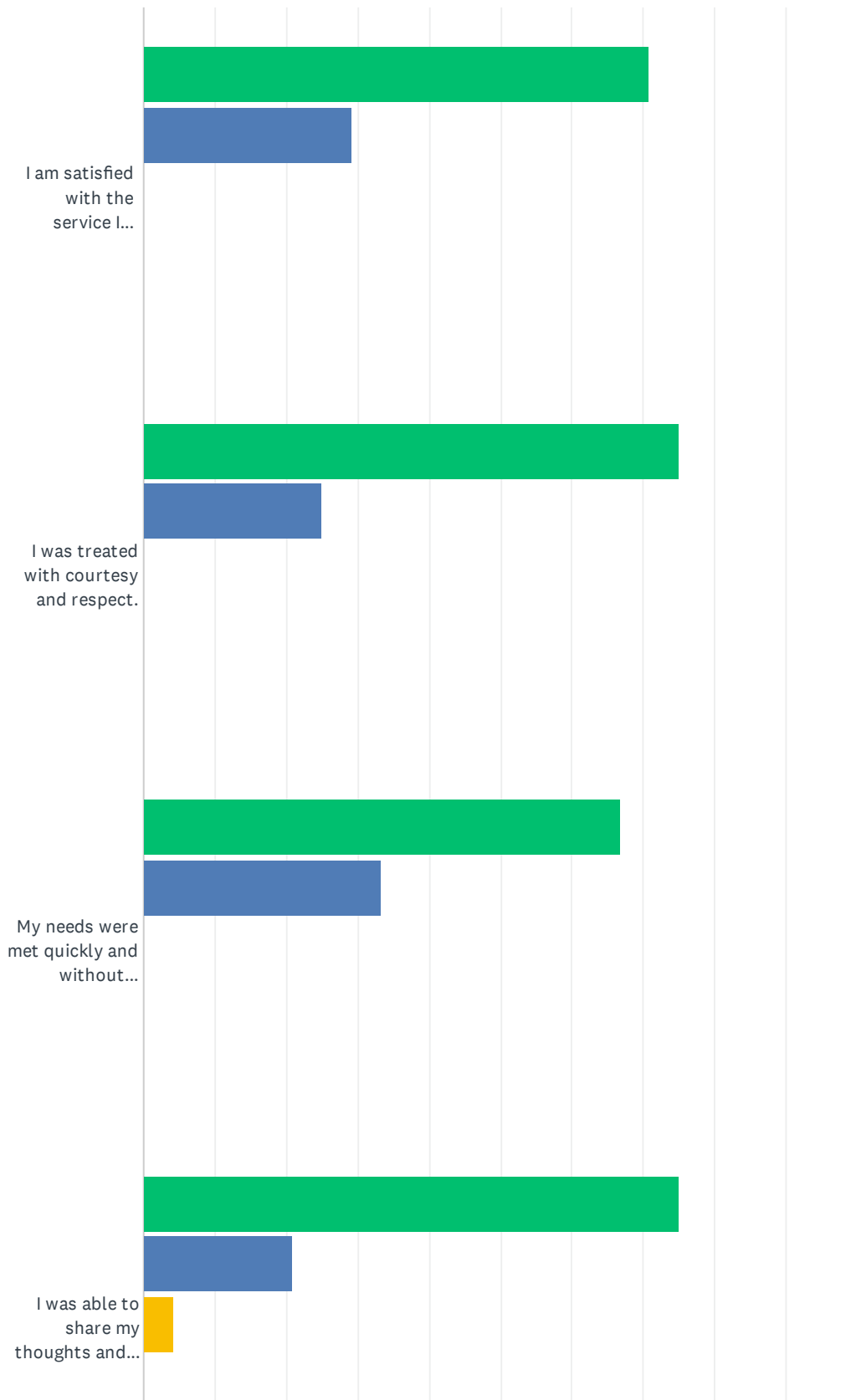
Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 8 am–1 pm

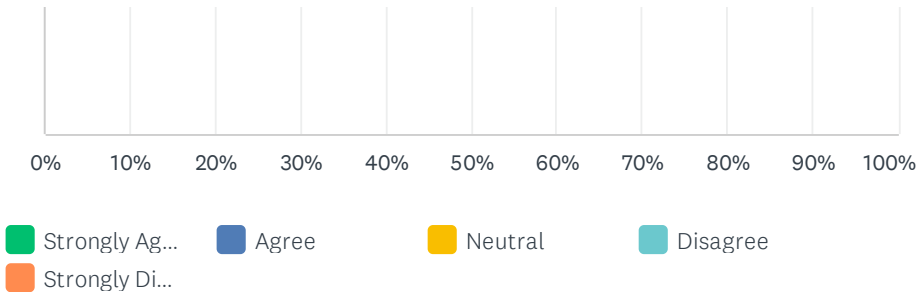
Event Location: 8111 Dodge Street, Suite 141, Omaha, NE

[Need moving assistance for equipment donations in the Omaha area?](#)

## Q1 Please rate the following.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 0

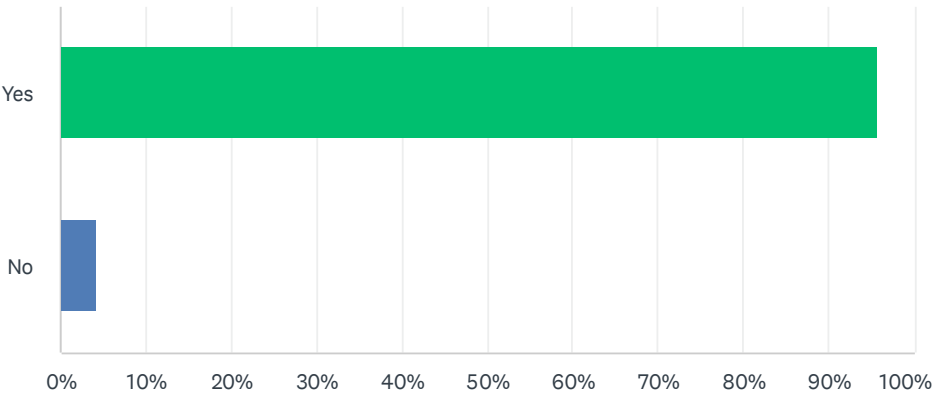




	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
I am satisfied with the service I received.	70.83% 17	29.17% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24
I was treated with courtesy and respect.	75.00% 18	25.00% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24
My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.	66.67% 16	33.33% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24
I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received.	75.00% 18	20.83% 5	4.17% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24

Q2 Are you currently employed?

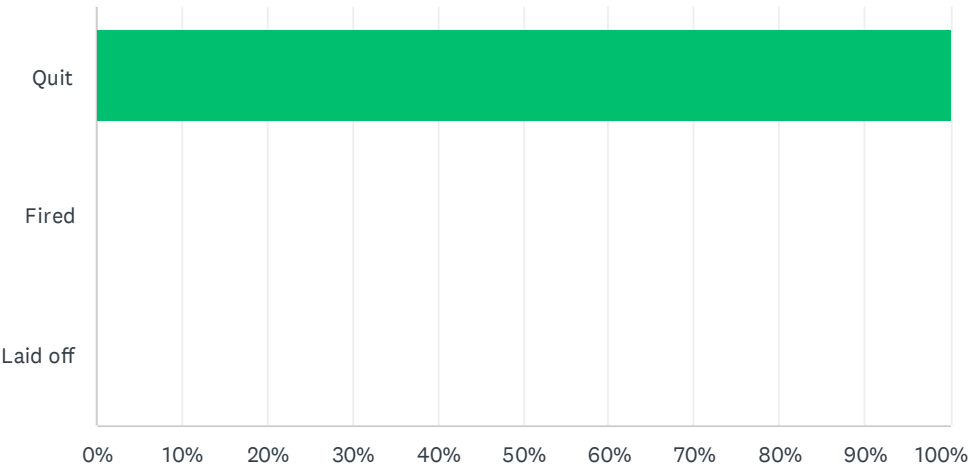
Answered: 24    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.83%	23
No	4.17%	1
TOTAL		24

Q3 If not, did you quit, were you fired or laid off?

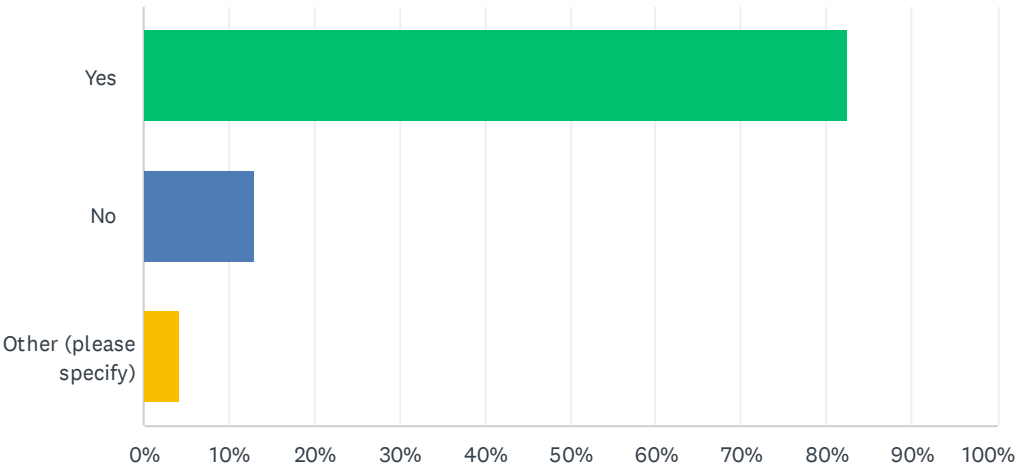
Answered: 1    Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Quit		100.00%	1
Fired		0.00%	0
Laid off		0.00%	0
TOTAL			1

Q4 Does your job meet your current needs?

Answered: 23    Skipped: 1

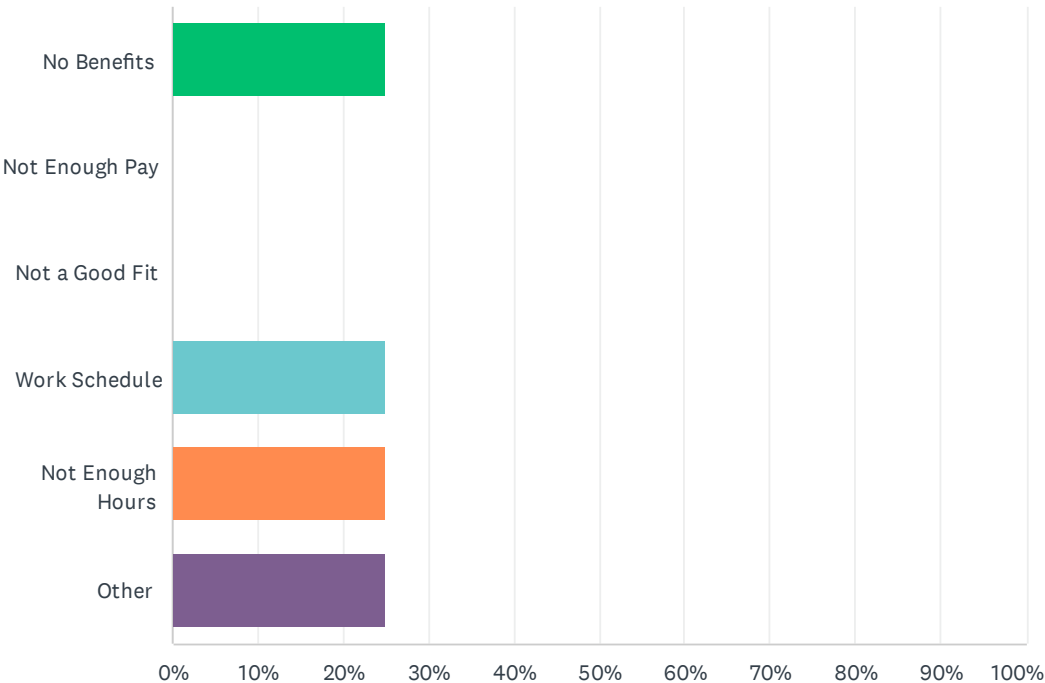


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.61%	19
No	13.04%	3
Other (please specify)	4.35%	1
TOTAL		23



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

Answered: 4    Skipped: 20



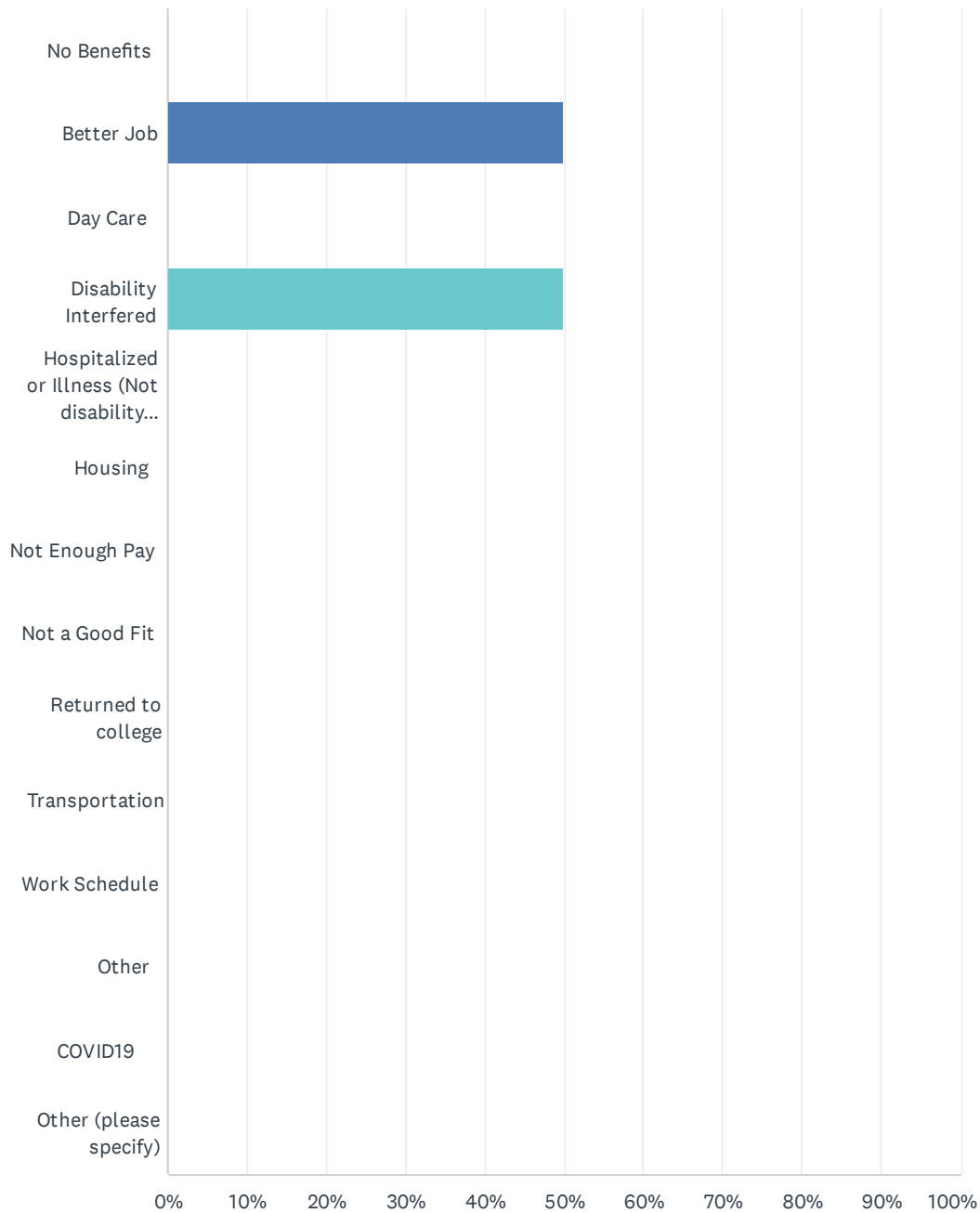
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Benefits	25.00%	1
Not Enough Pay	0.00%	0
Not a Good Fit	0.00%	0
Work Schedule	25.00%	1
Not Enough Hours	25.00%	1
Other	25.00%	1
TOTAL		4

Q6 Please specify the need not being met that was not listed.

Answered: 1   Skipped: 23

## Q7 Can you tell me why you (quit)?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 22



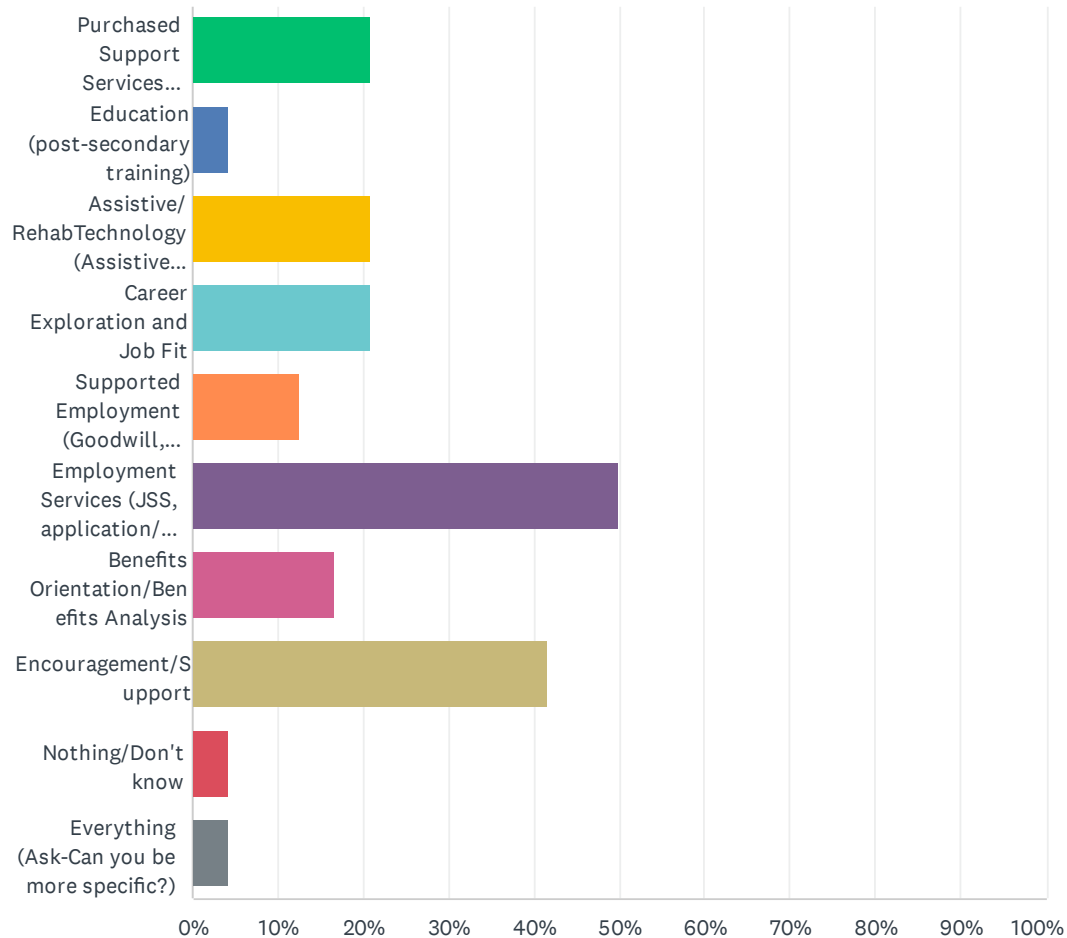
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Benefits	0.00%	0
Better Job	50.00%	1
Day Care	0.00%	0
Disability Interfered	50.00%	1
Hospitalized or Illness (Not disability related)	0.00%	0
Housing	0.00%	0
Not Enough Pay	0.00%	0
Not a Good Fit	0.00%	0
Returned to college	0.00%	0
Transportation	0.00%	0
Work Schedule	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
COVID19	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		2

## Q8 Please describe Not a Good Fit

Answered: 0   Skipped: 24

## Q9 What did Nebraska VR provide that was most helpful to you? Mark the categories the client indicated were the most helpful.

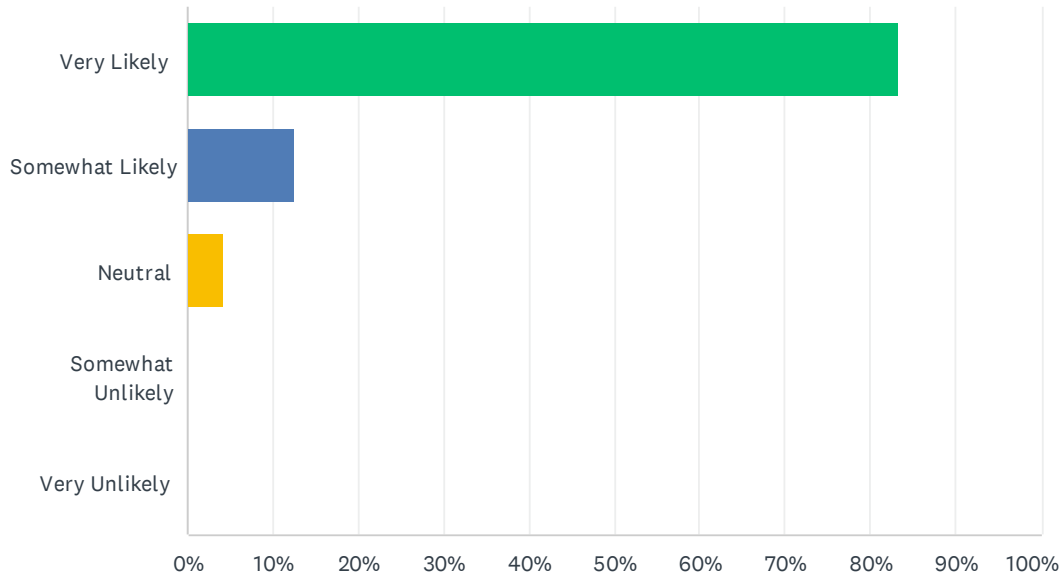
Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)	20.83%	5
Education (post-secondary training)	4.17%	1
Assistive/ RehabTechnology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods)	20.83%	5
Career Exploration and Job Fit	20.83%	5
Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc. )	12.50%	3
Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)	50.00%	12
Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis	16.67%	4
Encouragement/Support	41.67%	10
Nothing/Don't know	4.17%	1
Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)	4.17%	1
Total Respondents: 24		

## Q10 How likely are you to recommend Nebraska VR to a friend or family member who experiences a disability?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Likely	83.33%	20
Somewhat Likely	12.50%	3
Neutral	4.17%	1
Somewhat Unlikely	0.00%	0
Very Unlikely	0.00%	0
TOTAL		24



## Q11 Please share why you are very unlikely, somewhat unlikely and neutral

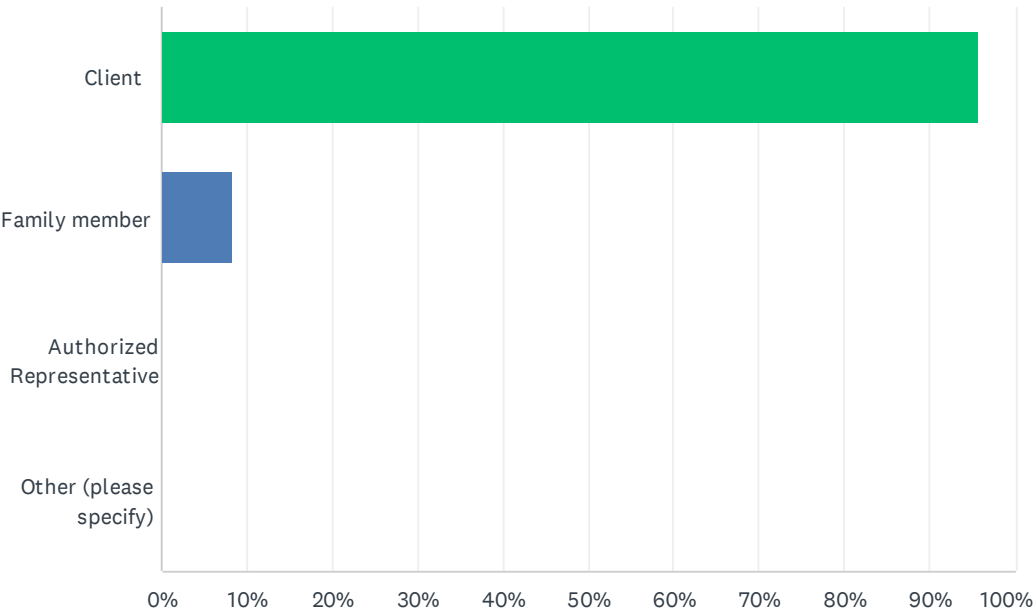
Answered: 1   Skipped: 23

Q12 Please share any other comments or suggestions you may have.

Answered: 11   Skipped: 13

Q13 Which of the following describes you?

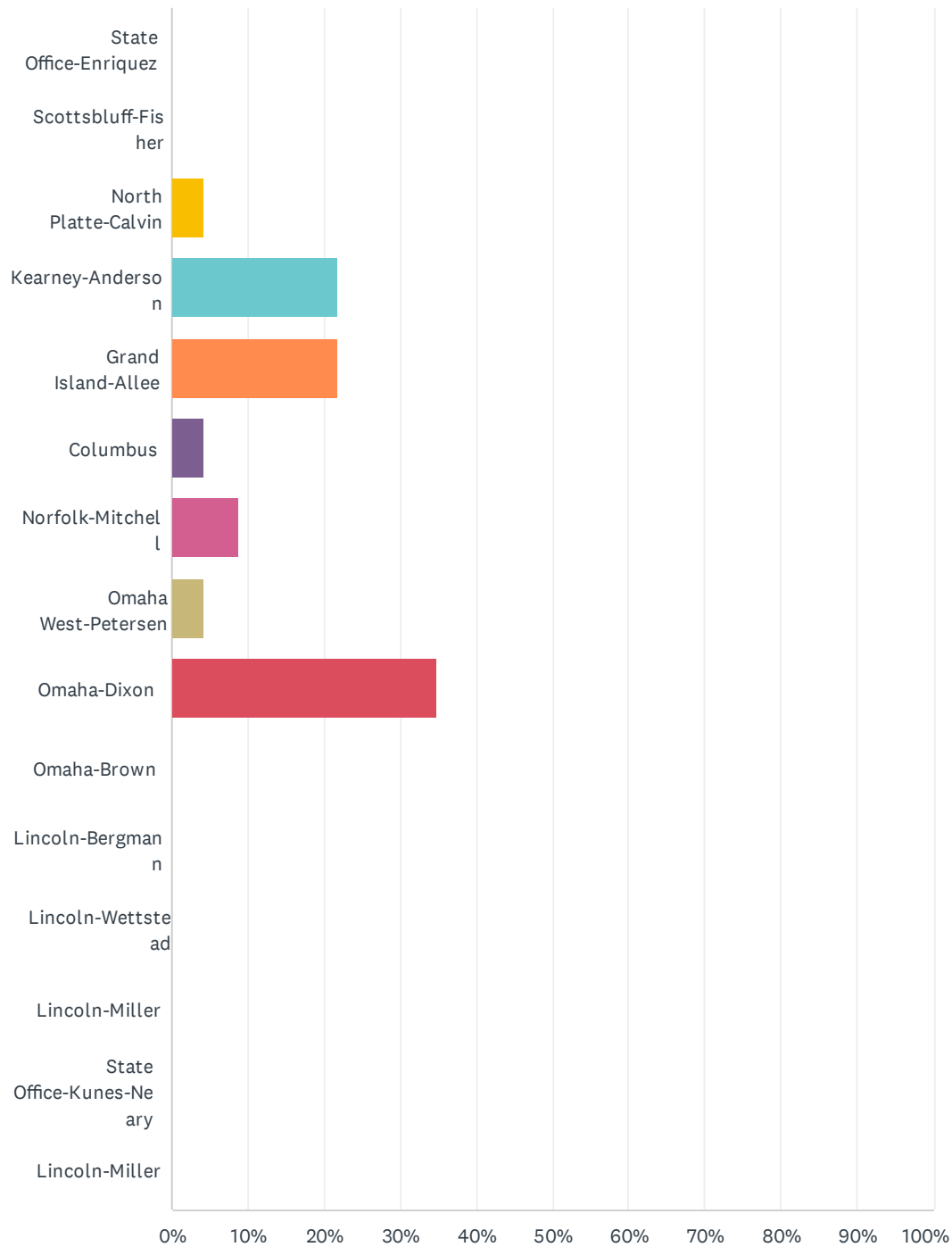
Answered: 24    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Client	95.83%	23
Family member	8.33%	2
Authorized Representative	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 24		

## Q14 Which Nebraska VR Team served you or the client?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
State Office-Enriquez	0.00%	0
Scottsbluff-Fisher	0.00%	0
North Platte-Calvin	4.35%	1
Kearney-Anderson	21.74%	5
Grand Island-Allee	21.74%	5
Columbus	4.35%	1
Norfolk-Mitchell	8.70%	2
Omaha West-Petersen	4.35%	1
Omaha-Dixon	34.78%	8
Omaha-Brown	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Bergmann	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Wettstead	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%	0
State Office-Kunes-Neary	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%	0
TOTAL		23

## Client Satisfaction Survey Quarter 1 2024-2025 YTD Comparison

	FY 23-24 Quarter 1 YTD	FY24-25 Quarter 4 YTD
<b>Surveys Completed</b>	33	24
<b>% Still Employed</b>	90.91% (30)	95.83% (23)
<b>Why Not Employed</b>	Laid Off- 66.67% (2) Fired- 33.33% (1)	Quit- 100% (1)
<b>Job Meets Current Needs</b>	93.33% (28)	82.61% (19)
<b>Most Helpful Service</b>	Supported Employment- 80.65% (25) Encouragement/Support- 58.06% (18) Benefits Orientation/Analysis- 32.26% (10)	Employment Services- 50% (12) Encourage/ Support- 41.67% (10)
<b>Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member</b>	96.97% (32)	95.83% (23)

## February 2025 Nebraska Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Report

NCDHH has hired a new Advocacy Specialist named Tiffany Stone in the Scottsbluff office who will be responsible for deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in the panhandle area.

Our Public Information Officer is currently vacant. If you wish to contact the public information officer, you can still reach out to NCDHH's main email or phone number; we have staff who will work with you.

A new big announcement, NCDHH had hired a new Executive Director Kyle Miers. Kyle is a Nebraska Native but had moved to Australia over 30 years ago and he will be moving back here. He will be starting working with us sometime in the middle of February, the NCDHH team and the board is very excited to have him join our team

## NESILC Report

SRC Meeting February 4, 2025

The new year of 2025 is starting off full of opportunities and new experiences for the NESILC!

At the present time, we at the NESILC are in restructuring and rebuilding mode. We will be advertising for a new Executive Director as soon as we are able to. We have been working on updating our website and will have the job posted there as well as other places. Suggestions on places to post the position are welcome!

As we work on restructuring the NESILC, we are also actively pursuing new members for the Council. Please feel free to send SILC members suggestions for Council members. Membership approval does take a little extra time with the Governor's office approving our new members. The application can be found on the Governor's website under "Constituent Services", then under "Boards and Commissions" and will be referenced on our website.

A copy of the application is included for easy reference.

Christine Gaspari

Secretary/Treasurer NESILC





Jim Pillen  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848  
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • jim.pillen@nebraska.gov

## Application for Executive Appointment

Name of Board or Commission appointment you are applying for

Please list any other Boards or Commissions, which you are currently serving on or previously have served on

### Personal Information

Name:  
(please type or print last name, first name, and middle initial)

Legal Residence      Street      City      State      Zip      County

Business Address      Street      City      State      Zip      County

Home Phone:      Cell/Pager:      Work Phone:

Email Address:

Occupation:

Are you a United States Citizen or legally able to work in the United States?    Yes    No  
Congressional District (1, 2, or 3):      Your State Senator:

Are there currently or has there ever been any disciplinary actions, suspensions or revocations of any licenses that you have been issued by any agency of federal, state or local government?    Yes    No  
If Yes, explain the circumstances on a separate sheet and attach to application.

I hereby certify that neither I, nor any member of my immediate family, nor any other party having influence over me, has a material, personal or financial interest with any matter, under the discretion or jurisdiction of the board or commission for which I applied. I further certify that no other relationship, bias or ethical conflict exists which will prevent me from fulfilling my duties if appointed.    Yes    No

Have you ever published, posted, or said anything, which could be construed as discriminatory?    Yes    No  
If Yes to the question above, provide a link to the post here:

Some appointments require specified partisan membership; therefore, we ask that you indicate your political affiliation:  
Republican    Democrat    Independent    Other (specify):

Some boards/commissions have gender composition requirements. Although answering the following question is optional, it assists with meeting these requirements:    Female    Male

### Employment

Statutes require some board appointees meet specific employment criteria. List employment beginning with the most recent experiences. A resume or additional information is optional.

Employer	Occupation	Address	Dates
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PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE

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## Education

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Schools attended including High School:

School	Location	Major/Degree
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## Additional Information

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Please list additional supportive information about yourself, your experiences, and background, including any board or commission you have served on in the past, honors or awards you have received, and other volunteer activities.

### AREAS OF INTEREST:

Agriculture	Cultural	Economic Development	Education	Environment
Finance	Government	Health	Human Services	Labor
Legal/Law Enforcement	Roads	Transportation	Nominating Commissions	
Other, please list				

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## References

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List names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three people who may be contacted for references:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If you have recently prepared a biography or resume, PLEASE ATTACH IT TO THIS FORM.

**Please note that completed applications and additional application material that you provide may be subject to public information requests.**

Some executive appointments are subject to confirmation by the Nebraska Legislature. One area of inquiry will be whether you or your spouse have a conflict of interest. An investigation into your background may be conducted by the Nebraska State Patrol prior to your appointment.

I hereby grant the Governor's Office and the Nebraska State Patrol permission to obtain, and provide the Governor, any and all records pertaining to me from the Department of Revenue, Department of Motor Vehicles, Law Enforcement Agencies, credit bureaus, past and present employers, employees, business associates, affiliations, and acquaintances.

As a citizen of the United States or person legally able to work in the United States and a resident of this state, I will accept appointment if selected by the Governor. If appointed, I pledge my best efforts to resolve, before assumption of office, any conflicts of interest that would be inconsistent with my responsibilities as a gubernatorial appointee.

Name (please print)

Signature

Date

Return completed form to:  
Pat Selk Administrative Assistant to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor,  
Nebraska Governor's Office, State Capitol, Box 94848, Lincoln, NE 68509-4848 402/471-2256 | FAX  
402/471-6031 | pat.selk@nebraska.gov



State Rehabilitation Council  
Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report  
February 2025

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- ◇ CAP completed Fiscal Year 2024 report to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).
    - CAP data reported:
      - 680 calls received requesting information and referral via CAP's Hotline for disability services during FY24 averaging about 2.5 calls per workday.
      - 2,300 CAP brochures disseminated and provided training to 175 staff at community agencies.
      - 21 clients served by CAP advocate regarding Nebraska VR concern or complaint
      - Communication problems between individual and VR staff account for most complaints.
      - 19/20 cases closed utilizing informal mediation where some or all issues were resolved in the client's favor.
      - 7/20 cases were related to the client's Individualized Employment Plan (IPE) development, implementation or services provided. Other results include re-establishing communication between individual and other party (3), Individual assigned to new counselor/office (3/3), Controlling law/policy explained to individual (2), Application for services completed (2).
      - Males and females served equally and 14/21 were white.
      - Systemic advocacy with VR policy and procedure through working with the SRC Client Service sub-committee to create a new VR Client Satisfaction Survey.
  - ◇ CAP is always updating and adding more resources on the [Hotline for Disability Services](#). Please share any resources that your region is using or if corrections need to be made on the database listing. CAP is a team of two and we appreciate your help with staying to stay up to date with information and referrals.
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NYLC was created “by youth for youth”. We are leaders and self-advocates who experience a disability. We travel the state promoting disability awareness and educating our peers on transitioning to college or work

### **NYLC SRC Report Oct.1 – Dec. 31, 2024 Activities**

**NYLC welcomed new members: Katelyn Preifert of Valprasio NE**

#### **October through December NYLC events.**

#### **Thursday Thread Virtual Meeting- dates/agenda items:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Members Attending</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10/10/24	Kaila S. Mark P. Seth K. NoahD. Molly C., Kadee L., Wyatt N., Macy M.	Virtual Pictinary.
10/24/24	Marisol, Mark P., Katelyn P., Molly C., Seth K., Kaitlyn E., Macy M., Isaiah C. , Makinley,	National Blindness Awareness Month. Seth Kedluc shared his story and experiences as a person with blindness
11/14/24	Marisol, Mark P., Katelyn P ,Seth K., Wyatt	Game night. Holiday Celebration

#### **NYLC Presentations/Out-reach**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Members Attending</b>	<b>What</b>
9/29/24	2 & Facilitator	SRC Meeting, Lincoln. Kadee Luebbe and Jess Elsberry shared
10/12/24	1 & Facilitator	People First of Nebraska Conference, Grand Island Kadee Luebbe hosted the information table
10/15/24	Facilitator	ESU 3 Agency Fair for Teachers and Parents
10/21/24	Facilitator	Project Search Recruiting Presentation, Lincoln NE. Katelyn Prefert joined NYLC
11/8/24	Facilitator	Virtual Life Link (Scottsbluff) Presentation on Self-advocacy and community engagement
11/12/24	Facilitator	ESU 3, Job Expo Everyday Self-advocacy presentation
12/5/24	Facilitator	Gibbon HS., Everyday Self-advocacy and Recruiting presentation
12/11/24	Facilitator	ESU 10 Kearney, Freshman Transition Day. Presented Everyday Self-advocacy
12/19/24	5 & Facilitator	Virtual YETI planning meeting with YETI staff & members. Kaitlyn Ericson, Mark Plog, Jess Elsberry, Kadee Luebbe, Katelyn Preifert, Macy Munderloh and Molly Cline



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Kadee and Jess enjoyed sharing with SRC in October. After the event the girls went to the Children’s Zoo.

