**From:** ncsab\_members@ncsab.org [mailto:ncsab\_members@ncsab.org] **On Behalf Of** Robinson, William (LEO)
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 2:11 PM
**To:** ncsab\_members@ncsab.org
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] [NCSAB Members] Safety of the participants we serve and ACB Resolution Training Centers and Other Rehab Programs

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**NFB specific links**

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[https://nfb.org/programs-services/safety-support/letter-nfb-community-special-committee](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnfb.org%2Fprograms-services%2Fsafety-support%2Fletter-nfb-community-special-committee&data=04%7C01%7Cgreg.trapp%40state.nm.us%7C0cd5e9df23cf45b014f808d99d73c906%7C04aa6bf4d436426fbfa404b7a70e60ff%7C0%7C0%7C637713955539626620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=a4E0vYMrlTDsPOUci9OXAuHC0vpA55eMS6a4EGwzpn0%3D&reserved=0)

**Dear NCSAB Members,**

**On Thursday Oct. 28th, Katy Neas, Acting Asst. Sec. of Ed, OSERS, and Carol Dobak, Acting Deputy Director, RSA, fulfilling the role of the Commissioner, jointly hosted a meeting with NCSAB and CSAVR to inquire about certain allegations and statements in the attached ACB resolution (which specifically references NFB training centers - see links re: NFB above) (The resolution also makes a general reference to other rehabilitation centers and programs). The meeting was limited to a half an hour.**

**Attending for NCSAB were myself, Dr. Bernice Davis, NCSAB President-Elect (NJ), Greg Trapp (NM), Lea Dias (HI), and Carlos Servan (NE).**

**Discussed with Katy Neas and Carol Dobak were general safety protocols in place in State VR agencies to protect VR participants:**

* **State employee background checks and screenings when hired.**
* **State HR manuals, policies, and procedures.**
* **Training center participant manuals**
* **Code of Ethics – State, VRC, CVRT, COMS.**
* **Accreditation by CARF of Training Centers**
* **Accreditation by National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) of Training Centers**
* **AER Accreditation of private programs**

**There was additional discussion about “informed choice” and how customers are made aware of risks and benefits of service providers. Vetting of vendors. Feedback and evaluation of vendors. Counselor check-ins with customers that occur when customers are participating in long-term training programs.**

**NCSAB members also referenced the NCSAB Conference session below:**

**Wednesday - December 8th**

All meeting times are Eastern

**1:00 pm – 2:30 pm** **Training Centers - Services That Succeed! Standards for Safe Environments and Service Protocols**

Facilitator: Greg Trapp, Executive Director, New Mexico Commission for the Blind

Presenters:

* New Mexico Commission for the Blind’s Orientation Center, Lucy Mallahan, Director
* Nebraska Commission for the Blind’s Center for the Blind, Jessica

          Bartenbach, Supervisor

* NFB’s Colorado Center for the Blind, Julie Deden, Executive Director
* World Services for the Blind, Sharon Giovinazzo, President & CEO

This interactive panel dives into training center facility safety and instructor service protocols for safety and includes State Agencies, NFB and a private run facility. The facilitator brings experience from working with certification boards and setting up safety protocols in New Mexico,

**Both Katy Neas and Carol Dobak appreciated the feedback from the field.**

**We all recognize the importance of a safe training environment for our participants. Agency protocols, policies and procedures for safety and reporting abuse are critical to an Agency’s success in serving its customers. Thank you for all the work you do and for putting the needs and safety of customers first always!**

**Bill Robinson, President NCSAB**

**W. A. Robinson, III**

**Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**

**Office of Employment and Training**

**Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity**

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