



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Quarterly Public Meeting

February 10, 2022





Call to Order





Administrative Remarks

- This official meeting of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission is open to the general public and is being recorded.
- Meeting panelists, such as the members of the Commission and other planned speakers, may un-mute themselves as needed.
- The Zoom setting for public attendees today is listen-only; however, attendees may use the Chat Box to send comments.
- During the Public Engagement presentations, attendees may send questions or comments for the speakers via the Chat Box.
- The meeting slides can be found on www.abilityone.gov.





Introductions and Chairperson's Remarks





Agenda

- Call to Order – Mr. Jeffrey Koses (Chairperson)
- Administrative Remarks – Ms. Angela Phifer
- Introductions and Chairperson’s Remarks – Mr. Koses
- Final 898 Panel Report – Mr. John Tenaglia, Panel Chairperson
- Legislative Proposal Update – Ms. Chai Feldblum
- Subcommittee Reports:
 - Enterprise Risk Management – Ms. Virna Winters
 - Performance Management – Ms. Jennifer Sheehy
 - Policy and Regulations – Ms. Feldblum
- Acting Executive Director’s Report – Ms. Kimberly Zeich





Agenda

- Presentation by Acting Inspector General –
Ms. Stefania Pozzi Porter
- Break
- Public Engagement Topics:
 - Individual Eligibility Evaluation forms
 - Third-party certification of significant disability
 - Rebecca Ogle and Richard Beutel
 - Ashlie Strackbein
 - Borgi Beeler
 - Justin Park
 - Questions and Chat Box comments
- Closing Remarks – Mr. Koses





Final 898 Panel Report



Legislative Proposal Update



Subcommittee Reports

- Enterprise Risk Management – Ms. Winters
- Performance Management – Ms. Sheehy
- Policy and Regulations – Ms. Feldblum



Acting Executive Director's Report



Program Results – 3 Year Trend

<u>Direct Labor</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
Hours Worked	48.1 M	46.0 M	43.9 M
Employees	42,684	42,200	39,690
Total Wages	\$679.7 M	\$675.9 M	\$668.6 M
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$14.12	\$14.70	\$15.22
<u>Mobility Statistics</u>			
AbilityOne Placements	1,803	1,743	1,515
Non-AbilityOne Placements	4,468	3,271	3,385
Direct NPA Placements	22,606	17,395	17,027





Acting Executive Director's Report

FY 2021 NPA Compliance Program Notes

- Total of 339 inspections and technical reviews completed; 70 conducted concurrently by Commission & CNA staff; 55 conducted on-site
- 53% of reviews required NPA corrective action, such as:
 - Remedy inconsistency between documentation of disability and individual eligibility evaluation forms
 - Ensure use of the latest applicable wage rates
 - Document that safety requirements are being met

The Commission staff will provide more compliance training in FY 2022, leveraging in-person events and online platforms.





Acting Executive Director's Report

Focus for 2022: Strategic Direction and Priorities

- Communicate and implement Strategic Plan
 - Competitive integrated employment
 - Effective stewardship
 - Collaboration w/ Federal Partners to expand employment
- Implement remaining 898 Panel recommendations
- Continue to increase transparency and communication via reports, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement
- Modernize Commission's IT system; develop IT data sharing solutions that enhance efficiency across the Program





Presentation by Acting Inspector General





OIG

Stefania Pozzi Porter
Inspector General (acting)

U.S. AbilityOne Commission OIG

AbilityOne Commission
Public meeting
February 10, 2022





OIG Leadership

- Stefania Porter
- Inspector General (Acting)

- Steven Burke
- Deputy Inspector General (Acting)





Roadmap

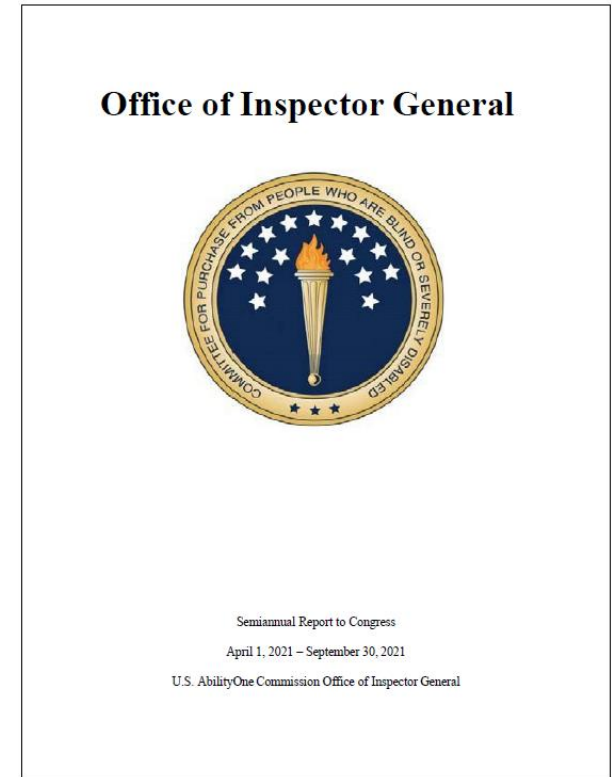
- Semiannual Report to Congress
 - Issued October 2021
 - Upcoming for April 2022
- Top Management Challenges Report
 - Added Two Watch Items
- In-Person NPA Visits
- Audits: completed and ongoing
- Investigations: completed
- 898 Panel Final Report Issued December 2021





OIG - Semiannual Report to Congress (SAR)

- SAR issued in October 2021 covered April 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021
 - Theme: Resilience and Continuity
- Previous SAR issued in May 2021 covered October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021
 - Theme: Pivotal Stage

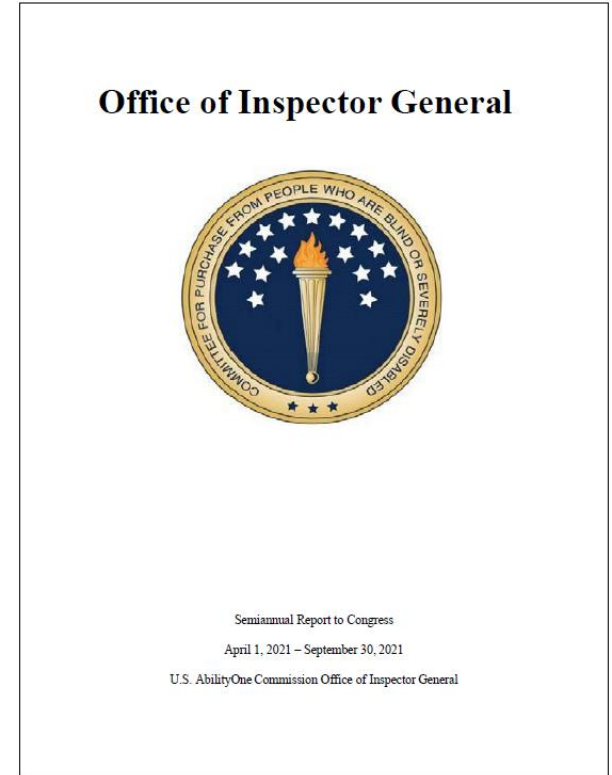




OIG - Semiannual Report to Congress (SAR)

Most recent SAR
April 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

<https://abilityone.oversight.gov/reports>





Top Management Challenges Report 2021

OIG issued the TMC Report in November 2021

2021 TMC Report:

- Watch List Item 1
Commission's Application of Protocols and Process to Allow Equitable Access for Blind and Significantly Disabled Individuals
- Watch List Item 2
AbilityOne Program Growth and Resulting Risk





Top Management Challenges Report 2021

- Management Challenge 1
Enhancement of the Commission's Oversight and Compliance Office
- Management Challenge 2
Breakdowns in Internal Control over Financial Management and Report
- Management Challenge 3
Growing List of Unimplemented OIG Audit Recommendations
- Management Challenge 4
Successful Implementation of the Section 898 Panel Recommendations
Addressing Anti-deficiency Act Violations and Strengthening Financial Management





Top Management Challenges Report 2021

- Management Challenge 5
Commission's Allocation of Roles, Resources, Authorities and Responsibilities Among the Commission Senior Staff
- Management Challenge 6
Higher Level of Transparency Needed to Enhance Confidence in the Program
- Management Challenge 7
Establishing an Enterprise-Wide Risk Management Framework
- Management Challenge 8
Implementation of Cooperative Agreements with CNAs
- Management Challenge 9
Erosion of Statutory Program Authority





In-Person NPA Visits – Previous SAR Period

- OIG completed two knowledge visits with SourceAmerica NPAs in Northern California – during previous SAR reporting period
- Pride Industries
 - NPA with over 6,000 employees started in 1966 by a small group of parents wanting their disabled children to have vocational and rehabilitation opportunities.
 - Toured Travis AFB and met with over a dozen Program participants, and learned about three contracts: custodial, landscaping, and food services.
- North Bay Industries
 - Founded in 1968 to assist adults with disabilities and provide employment in their communities.
 - Demonstrated assistive devices, including automated driving landscaping machinery and flag manufacturing which produces 90,000 American flags a year.





OIG Biennial Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2020–2021

OIG Audits recently issued:

[Reports | Office of Inspector General
\(oversight.gov\)](#)

- Evaluation of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission's Compliance with FISMA for Fiscal Year 2021
- Audit of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2021





OIG Audits Recently Initiated

- Audit of the Commission's Compliance with the Provisions of the Digital Accountability And Transparency Act Of 2014
 - Final Report expected February 2022
- Audit of the AbilityOne Oversight and Compliance Program
 - Final Report expected Spring 2022
- Audit of the Quality of Products in Support of Meeting Government Requirement
 - Entrance conference Fall 2021 – Audit ongoing
- FY2022 Risk Assessment of the Commission's Government Charge Card
 - Entrance conference will be scheduled soon





Biennial Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–2023

- OIG’s Biennial Audit Plan issued in June 2021
- Maps out audits OIG plans over the next 2 years (2022-2023)
- OIG utilized a comprehensive risk-based methodology to inform
- audit planning and future engagements





Audit of the AbilityOne Compliance Program

- This audit will determine whether the Compliance Program has been implemented effectively to provide reasonable assurance of NPA and CNA compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- To answer our objective, we will:
 - Review laws, regulations, policies, and procedures applicable to the Compliance Program.
 - Conduct interviews with key personnel.
 - Analyze data, reports, and other supporting documentation related to compliance reviews.





Completed OIG Investigation and DoJ Press Release

CW Resources Inc, AbilityOne Contractor, Pays \$600K to Resolve Federal False Claims Act Allegations

[Press release](#) by the Department of Justice - October 13, 2021

To resolve allegations under the False Claims Act, CW Resources has agreed to pay the federal government \$600,000 and enter into a compliance agreement.





Completed OIG Investigation and DoJ Press Release

Quote by the Acting Inspector General – AbilityOne OIG

“This settlement represents the government’s commitment to hold any AbilityOne contractor accountable for noncompliance and ensure that federal dollars intended to employ workers who are blind or have significant disabilities are indeed used for that purpose” said Acting Inspector General Stefania Porter of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission.

“Working with the United States Attorney’s Office and our investigative and law enforcement partners, the AbilityOne Office of Inspector General protects the integrity and public trust in the largest employment program in the nation of blind and significantly disabled workers.”





898 Panel Final Report to Congress

Dec. 2021

- IG Subcommittee has completed both its 898 Panel recommendations.
- The 898 Panel's Final Report is completed, there are opportunities to identify and leverage recommendations that will continue after sunset of the 898 Panel.
- Key continuation items:
 1. Outreach
 2. Training
 3. Compliance
 4. PLIMS
 5. ABOR Program
 6. Section 508 Compliance
 7. Veterans Employment
 8. Wages and 14(c)





OIG Website

AbilityOne Office of Inspector General

<https://abilityone.oversight.gov>

To SUBMIT a COMPLAINT to OIG:

Please submit complaints using our Portal

<https://abilityone.oversight.gov>

You may also submit a complaint via our:

Hotline Toll-Free Number: 1-844-496-1536, or

Email: hotline@oig.abilityone.gov





Break



Public Engagement Topics

- The Individual Eligibility Evaluation (IEE) forms used by the Commission as documentation of significant disability.
- Third-party certification or verification of significant disability.



Ms. Rebecca Ogle
Former Executive Director,
Presidential Task Force on Employment of
Adults with Disabilities

Mr. Richard Beutel
Principal and Founder, Cyrrus Analytics



Ms. Ashlie Strackbein

Vice President, External Affairs, ServiceSource



Ms. Borgi Beeler
President and CEO,
Kalix and MVW Services, Inc.



Justin Park
Trial Attorney,
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division,
Disability Rights Section



Questions and Comments



Closing Remarks