



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Quarterly Public Meeting

July 21, 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.
- Meeting materials 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
- Guest Speaker – Dr. Mona Minkara
- Strategic Plan Update – Ms. Chai Feldblum
- Subcommittee Reports:
 - Enterprise Risk Management – Ms. Virna Winters
 - Performance Management – Ms. Christina Brandt
 - Regulations and Policy – Ms. Feldblum
- Acting Executive Director Report – Ms. Kimberly Zeich





Agenda (cont.)

- Acting Inspector General Presentation
 - Ms. Stefania Pozzi Porter
- Advancing Nonprofit Agencies' Purchases of PL Items
 - Mr. Kevin Lynch
 - Mr. Richard Belden
- Break
- Public Engagement: Compliance and Technical Assistance
 - Overview
 - Compliance and Technical Assistance for NPAs
 - Registered Speakers
 - Questions and Chat Box comments
- Closing Remarks – Mr. Koses





Impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Dr. Mona Minkara
Northeastern University



Update on FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

**Ms. Chai Feldblum
Vice Chairperson**



Subcommittee Reports

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



Regulations and Policy

Subcommittee – Regulations

- **14(c) Regulation**

- Published on **July 21** with an effective date of 90 days from publication – **October 19**.
- **Prohibits use of 14(c) certificates** to pay employees on AbilityOne new contracts, extensions of contracts, and **options**.
- NPAs may request an **extension of up to 12 months** to come into compliance. Requests for extension must be received by **Sept 19**.
- During the extension period, the NPA will **not be awarded new PL additions**, absent exigent circumstances and a written request from the Federal customer.

- **Competition Regulation** – next up in the queue.





Regulations and Policy Subcommittee – Policies

Policy work stemming from the Strategic Plan for FY22-FY26:

- Ensure **Cooperative Agreements** reflect the direction of the new Strategic Plan.
- Publish a **Request For Information (RFI)** on “good jobs” and “optimal jobs” in the Program and review responses.
- Revise the **Individual Eligibility Evaluation (IEE)** process and form to better enable job customization and employment advancement.





Acting Executive Director Report



Acting Executive Director Report

- Commission staff update
 - Strategic Plan Focus
 - Rulemaking and Policy Updates
- Communication and transparency
 - Town Hall and Advocacy Organization Listening Session
 - Listening sessions with AbilityOne employees
 - Website and social media
- Recent Procurement List (PL) additions - highlights
 - Personal Protective Equipment Distribution
 - Acquisition Support Services
 - Section 508 Compliance Assurance
- Strengthening and enhancing compliance functions





Acting Inspector General Presentation





Office of Inspector General

Commission Public Meeting



Stefania Pozzi Porter, Inspector General (Acting)
July 21, 2022





Duties and Mechanisms of the OIG

DUTIES

- Ensure integrity (no fraud or abuse; efficient use of taxpayer dollars)
- Ensure agency and all components related to the agency are carrying out the agency's stated mission
- Duty to keep Congress and the Head of the Agency fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the Commission and its Program

MECHANISMS

- Individual investigations
- Audits in targeted areas
- Overall reports as mandated by statute



OIG – Investigations

- We host a hotline to receive anonymous complaints
- People can also come to us directly and identify themselves
- We receive referrals from the Department of Justice and other OIGs
- We have 28 ongoing investigations
- Areas that come up include misrepresentation of labor ratio, conflict of interest, and employee misconduct





Audits – Recently Completed

- CNA Selection of NPAs for Project Assignment and Allocation of Orders
- Procurement List Addition Process, Procedures, and Practices
- Financial Statement Audit
- Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act
- Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA)
- Government Purchase Card Risk Assessment





Audits – Ongoing

- Oversight and Compliance Program
- Quality of Products in Support of Meeting Government Requirement
- Third-Party Service Provider Agreements
- Commission's Contract Administration Process
- Financial Statement 2022





OIG Reports

- Management Challenges Report
- SARs
- Audit Reports

- SAR May 2022

Theme: Looking Forward

- 3 Audits Completed
- 1 Investigation Closed
- NPA visit

Office of Inspector General



Semiannual Report to Congress

October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

U.S. AbilityOne Commission Office of Inspector General



OIG FY22 Objectives

- Continued commitment to foster the integrity, economy, and efficiencies through the prevention and identification of fraud, waste, and abuse
- Alignment of OIG goals in support of the Commission's mission and new strategic plan, including through audits and evaluations
- Continued communication with key stakeholders, including:
Congress, Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Commission Members, Commission staff, CNAs, NPAs, Program Participants, and fellow federal agencies





OIG Contact Information

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





Advancing Nonprofit Agencies' Purchases of Procurement List Items



Mr. Kevin Lynch, NIB
Mr. Richard Belden, SourceAmerica

U.S. AbilityOne Commission Meeting

Kevin Lynch
President and CEO
National Industries for the Blind

July 21, 2022



NPA Purchasing Initiative

- Working collaboratively with SourceAmerica and NPA reps
- Confirmed many SourceAmerica NPA suppliers are already Authorized AbilityOne Distributors
- Developed preliminary product listing – Custodial, Food Service, JanSan, and Housekeeping Products
- Engaging all stakeholders to raise awareness
 - Hosted virtual training for SourceAmerica NPAs and account reps
 - Providing SourceAmerica NPA contract holders with resource materials including “How to Buy AbilityOne”
 - Informing SourceAmerica suppliers/distributors about the new policy

SourceAmerica NPA Participation



Next Steps

- Create additional outreach materials
- Develop landing page with FAQs and other resources
- Work with SourceAmerica to ramp up outreach

U.S. AbilityOne Commission Meeting Update

July 21, 2022

Richard Belden, SourceAmerica President and CEO



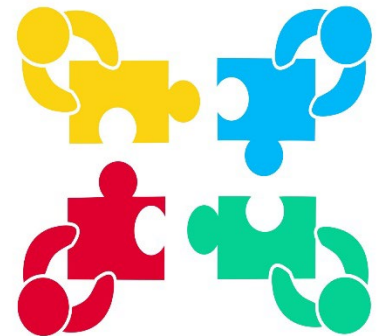
Current Initiatives to Support Policy Implementation

- **Conducting an existing AbilityOne service contract analysis**

- Line of business
- Annual contract value
- Contract renewal dates

- **Working with NIB to analyze and share data on:**

- Upcoming service contract renewals
- D.C. area custodial contracts in support of mandatory product
- Policy implementation considerations (distribution/product access, price impacts, logistics, and NPA customer support)



Future Actions

- **Working with NIB to:**
 - Recommend implementation-related priorities
 - Develop a joint plan and schedule
 - Create stakeholder communications, resources, and trainings
 - NPAs, CNA staff, and federal customers



Break



Public Engagement

Compliance and Technical Assistance Overview



Oversight and Compliance Framework

- Commission Staff Compliance Team is currently 6 FTEs (Director, Supervisor, 2 Inspectors, 2 VR Specialists)
- They conduct a combination of on-site and virtual reviews: 122 on-site; 90 virtual reviews in FY 2022 YTD
- They work closely with 19-20 CNA personnel who perform regulatory assistance reviews per Cooperative Agreements
- Inspections focus on regulatory criteria for NPA qualification, ~ 11 items (see 41 C.F.R. 51-4.2 and 51-4.3)
- Inspectors' focus is not currently on contract performance, job customization, and placements

NIB Workforce-Related Technical Assistance



SourceAmerica Technical Assistance



U.S. AbilityOne Commission meeting

Shane Kanady, Vice President, Workforce Development

Workforce Development Support for NPA AbilityOne contracts

Quality Work Environment

14(c) Transition

Department of Labor - NEON

Customized and Supported Employment

Productivity Engineering

Inclusive Certification Programs

Direct Service Professional Certifications

SourceAmerica Academy Training

Resources in Development





Public Engagement

Compliance and Technical Assistance for NPAs



Additional Comments and Discussion



Closing Remarks



Mr. Koses
Chairperson
U.S. AbilityOne Commission