



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Quarterly Public Meeting

October 25, 2022





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



Agenda

- Swearing In of New Members
- Chairperson's Remarks
- Executive Director Report
 - FY 2022 Accomplishments
 - Looking Ahead
- Inspector General Presentation
- Elimination of Subminimum Wages on AbilityOne Contracts
 - Update and Celebration
 - Panel of Employees
- Strategic Plan Implementation





Agenda (cont.)

- *Break*
- Public Engagement
 - Cooperative Agreement Overview
 - Input for Next Generation Cooperative Agreements
- Closing Remarks - Chairperson





New Commission Appointees

- Matthew R. Beebe, Department of Defense
- Angela Billups, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Megan R. Dake, Department of the Army
- Carol L. Dobak, Department of Education
- Robert D. Hogue, Department of the Navy
- Tara M. Jamison, Department of Justice
- Malcom A. Shorter, Department of Agriculture





Swearing In of New Members



Chairperson Remarks



Executive Director Report



Key FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Issued new Commission FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan
- Completed rulemaking process to end the payment of subminimum wages on AbilityOne contracts
- Increased communication and transparency through virtual public meetings, town hall and listening sessions; also leveraged [AbilityOne.gov](https://www.AbilityOne.gov), [Regulations.gov](https://www.Regulations.gov), and social media to raise awareness of Commission actions
- Increased rate and rigor of FY 2022 compliance reviews; identified new focus areas and process improvements





Key FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Completed full cycle of Enterprise Risk Management Planning and Management Internal Controls Plan
- Maintained AbilityOne Procurement List with dozens of additions and deletions, thousands of price adjustments
- Increased AbilityOne Representatives (ABORs) to 19 agencies; facilitated training and monthly meetings
- Issued policy requiring AbilityOne service providers to consistently purchase and use AbilityOne products
- Participated in whole-of-government initiatives to enhance DEIA and support underserved communities





Looking Ahead

- Compliance program priorities for FY 2023+
 - Provide more technical assistance
 - Increase contract performance focus
 - Engage with new NPA Compliance Council
- IT modernization – update agency’s data information management system
- Commission staff
 - Strategic Plan alignment
 - Effective stewardship





US AbilityOne Commission

Office of Inspector General



Stefania Porter, Inspector General
October 25, 2022





Investigations & Evaluations

- We have 30 ongoing Investigations
- DOJ Award for Outstanding efforts for AbilityOne OIG Investigation
- FISMA – Positive Evaluation





Audits – Peer Review

Modified Peer Review Report on the OIG's Audit Organization

Positive outcome for our OIG

- The OIG OA's established policies and procedures were current and consistent with applicable professional standards
- The OIG OA had controls in place to ensure that IPAs performed contracted work in accordance with professional standards.





Audits – Ongoing

- **Audit of the Quality of Products in Support of Meeting Government Requirements** (Fall 2022)
- **Audit of the Commission’s Financial Statements** (Fall 2022)
- **Audit of the Commission’s Contract Administration Process** (Summer 2023)
- **Audit of Third-Party Service Provider Agreements** (Summer 2023)





Audit - Final Stage

Audit of the Compliance Program

Launched before the New Strategic Plan

Objective:

to determine whether the Compliance Program has been implemented effectively to provide reasonable assurance of NPA and CNA compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies





Audit - Just Launched

Audit of Data Reliability, Availability, and Accessibility

Objective: to determine if data that is generated to monitor and report on program growth and program employment is reliable, available, and accessible by the Commission to better inform decision-making and ensure achievement of strategic objectives





OIG FY23 Objectives

- Continued commitment to fostering integrity, economy, and efficiencies through identification and prevention 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, Chair, Vice-Chair, 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

Email: hotline@oig.abilityone.gov



Elimination of Subminimum Wages on AbilityOne Contracts

Update and Celebration



Panel of Employees



Panelists

- Marcus Jones
New Horizons Rehabilitation Services
- John Lemus
AtWork!
- Tawana Freeman
Melwood
- Roxanne Moses
Melwood





Strategic Plan Implementation



Strategic Plan Objectives

1. Transform the AbilityOne Program to expand competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.
 - *Be available and responsive to Members of Congress and staff if they decide to amend the JWOD Act.*
 - *Consistent with 898 Panel final report, work with fellow government agencies on proposal to amend the JWOD Act.*





“Good Jobs” and “Optimal Jobs”

2. Identify, publicize, and support the increase of good jobs and optimal jobs in the AbilityOne Program, defined as:

- **“Good Job”**:

1. Individuals with disabilities are paid competitive wages and benefits;
2. Individuals are covered under employment laws.
3. The job matches the individual’s interests and skills, and includes the appropriate supports (“job customization”);
4. There is a person-centered employment plan designed to help the individual advance in their career and the individual is provided opportunities for advancement equal to those without disabilities.

- **“Optimal jobs”**: Good Jobs that are also integrated.





Strategic Plan Objectives

3. Ensure effective governance and results across the AbilityOne Program.
 - *Modernize the Commission's data collection capabilities.*
 - *Modernize and enhance the oversight of NPA compliance so that it aligns with the strategic direction of the AbilityOne Program.*
 - *Ensure that the Cooperative Agreements with the CNAs implement the strategic direction of the AbilityOne Program.*





Strategic Plan Objectives

4. Engage in partnerships to increase employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities within and beyond the AbilityOne Program.

- *Work with AbilityOne Representatives (ABORs) to create jobs in the AbilityOne Program.*
- *Foster collaborative efforts with Federal agencies with mission responsibilities to increase employment for people with disabilities.*





Strategic Implementation Plan

Strategic Implementation Plan is a blueprint for achieving the strategic objectives, outcome goals, strategies, and performance measures in the Strategic Plan.

- Key components:
 - Prioritize strategic objectives and outcome goals
 - Establish milestones
 - Identify resources
 - Designate responsibilities
 - Establish metrics
 - Evaluate success





Key Implementation Milestones

- Policy and Regulatory Overhaul
 - Update current compliance policy to focus on technical assistance, Commission oversight, and customer satisfaction
 - NPRM and Final Rule for competitive allocations
- Good and Optimal Jobs
 - RFIs to NPAs, industry, and Federal customers
 - Pilot Test (Integration and Competition)
- Modernizing the Cooperative Agreements



Break



Cooperative Agreement Overview



Cooperative Agreements Overview

- Historical Background & Purpose
- Current Challenges
- Alignment with the Strategic Plan
 - Clearer Lines of Responsibility
 - Modified Performance Measures
 - Refined Deliverables



Public Engagement

Next Generation Cooperative Agreements



Scheduled Speakers

- Cindy Watson, San Antonio Lighthouse
- Bonita Miner, Department of the Army
- Kim Knackstedt, The Century Foundation
- John Lemus, AtWork!
- Dennis Edwards, Rising Star Resource Development Corporation
- Katie Griffin, Defense Manpower Data Center
- Kelsey Kilen, Skookum Contract Services





Cooperative Agreements Discussion

Attendee comments and questions:

The Commission will hear comments and/or answer questions submitted in the Chat Box regarding the next Cooperative Agreements, time permitting.



Chairperson Closing Remarks