• 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
• *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, 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
• 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 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 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
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.
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.
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
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