

**U.S. AbilityOne Commission
Minutes – Quarterly Public Meeting**

**Thursday, April 24, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET**

I. Call to Order

U.S. AbilityOne Commission Chairperson Robert Hogue called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. and greeted the nearly 300 participants attending via Zoom.

II. Administrative Remarks and Introductions

Commission Executive Officer Angela Phifer gave administrative remarks. She noted that two American Sign Language interpreters would interpret and that the meeting was being live captioned.

Commission members introduced themselves. Hogue noted with regret that Commission members Angela Billups, Megan Dake, and Carol Dobak had left Federal service since the last Commission meeting.

Executive Director Kim Zeich and Inspector General Stefania Porter introduced themselves and certain staff members.

III. Consideration of Minutes

Minutes from the January 23, 2025, quarterly public meeting were approved.

IV. Chairperson Opening Remarks

On the occasion of his first public meeting as Commission Chairperson, Hogue briefly discussed the content of his [Chairperson's Intent statement](#), issued on April 23, 2025. The statement offers perspectives on how the Commission will navigate the changes sweeping across the Federal government.

Reiterating points he made at the January meeting, Hogue said he intended to continue the Commission's practice of transparency and engagement, including with the disability community.

The Commission's important mission has not changed, but the agency will follow the new Administration's lead by increasing focus on accountability and efficiency throughout the Program.

Hogue said he had additionally asked the Commission staff for their input on how to streamline operations and intensify the Program's focus on American-made products, since the new Administration is interested in Made in America.

The AbilityOne Program mission aligns with the President’s guidance to Federal agencies to “create employment opportunities for American workers, including drawing discouraged workers into the labor force.” This guidance was part of the memorandum “[Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis](#).”

Hogue said every AbilityOne nonprofit agency (NPA) should be focused on providing excellent performance on all contracts.

He also said he is interested in exploring how to bring more high-end work – engineering services, for example – into the Program.

V. Vice Chairperson Opening Remarks

Commission Vice Chairperson Christ Brandt discussed her background.

She said Commission members, staff, central nonprofit agencies (CNAs), NPAs, and stakeholders, including those with lived experience and expertise, work for a common vision of more jobs, good jobs, and increased opportunities, and to educate themselves to be advocates for the importance and value of the Program.

Current key areas of Commission focus include strategic planning, modernizing policies, and giving credit to those in the Program who are moving forward with employee career development.

Additionally, the Commission has emphasized the importance of data collection, including the need to measure success. Measurement also facilitates accountability.

The Commission continues to look for ways of streamlining, reducing burden, increasing accountability, and increasing efficiencies, while improving the Program.

She said her number one priority is protecting and improving the Program to keep it alive and growing.

VI. Opening Remarks by Jeff Koses, General Services Administration Representative to the Commission and Immediate Past Chairperson

Koses, the Commission’s immediate past Chairperson and the General Services Administration representative to the Commission, said that as of the meeting date, President Trump had issued approximately 175 executive orders. At least 32 impact Federal acquisition.

Koses discussed two of them:

[EO 14240](#), “Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement”

[EO 14275](#), “Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement”

VII. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Kim Zeich gave a [report](#).

VIII. General Counsel Update

Commission General Counsel Marlin Paschal gave an [update](#).

IX. Data Collection Forms Rollout

Zeich and Bradley Crain, the Commission's Workforce Development Program Manager, gave an [update](#) on the rollout of three data collection forms.

X. Inspector General Presentation

Inspector General Stefania Pozzi Porter gave an [update](#).

XI. Public Engagement Session

The Commission had announced that the public engagement session would focus on "How the AbilityOne Program Contributes to the Domestic Industrial Base." The agency invited comments and suggestions on the topic.

Deputy Executive Director Amy Jensen moderated the [session](#).

Soraya Correa, President & CEO, National Industries for the Blind (NIB)

Correa gave an [update](#) on NIB's nationwide network and impact. She discussed NIB's NSITE, which provides a continuum of employment services that connect employers with people who are blind, visually impaired, and/or veterans.

Richard Belden, President & CEO, SourceAmerica

Belden gave an [overview](#) of SourceAmerica's network, capacity and capabilities, mentioning specific examples of services and products, including products developed through rapid development and prototyping.

Dennis Steiner, President & CEO, VisionCorps

VisionCorps is an NIB-affiliated nonprofit agency. Steiner discussed some VisionCorps products, including helmet pads, as well as its contract closeout work.

Craig Wellons, President & CEO, ReadyOne Industries

ReadyOne is a SourceAmerica-affiliated nonprofit agency. Wellons discussed ReadyOne's experience producing chemical and biological protection suits for warfighters, among other achievements.

Lisa Webb Sharpe, COO, Peckham

Peckham is a SourceAmerica-affiliated nonprofit agency. Sharpe gave examples of the products and services it provides, including its call center work with the National Passport Information Center.

Dan Kelly, President & CEO, IFB Solutions

IFB Solutions is an NIB-affiliated nonprofit agency. Kelly discussed aspects of its operations including its production of military textiles. 38% of the people who take a job at IFB Solutions have never had a job before, he said.

Brandt said it had been heartening to hear about the many types of essential work AbilityOne in which employees are engaged. The AbilityOne Program can transform lives, helping people escape poverty, become contributing members of society, and find their dream jobs, she said.

Hogue reiterated his interest in exploring how high-end services like engineering could be included in the AbilityOne Program. He asked the speakers to give the issue some thought.

Matt Beebe, the Department of Defense representative to the Commission, said AbilityOne does a lot of work in the clothing and textile area and there is a need to expand the diversity of the Program's lines of business. He emphasized the importance of domestic production and timely delivery.

Brandt echoed the importance of delivering quality on time.

Koses said it will be essential to communicate about the AbilityOne products that are made in America.

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support

- Steven Merch, Supplier Operations Division Chief, Clothing and Textiles Directorate
- Leighann Mazoki, Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer, Clothing and Textiles Directorate
- Jessica Wallis, Director, Small Business Office

Merch talked about the scope of AbilityOne's clothing and textile contributions to DLA Troop Support, including items ranging from t-shirts to combat utility uniforms to chemical and biological protection suits.

Mazoki mentioned a working group that DLA participates in with the Army, NIB, and SourceAmerica to figure out how to transition new items over to sustainment in a way that is equitable not only for AbilityOne but for the broader industrial base. She also discussed opportunities related to standardization and surge capabilities, and she emphasized the importance of on-time delivery.

Wallis said DLA Troop support is looking forward to partnering with CNAs and NPAs to find opportunities beyond clothing and textiles and to maintaining and growing the industrial base.

XII. Concluding Remarks

Emphasizing the importance of AbilityOne to the country, Hogue thanked the speakers for an informative discussion and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Attendees

Nearly 300 people attended, including:

Commission Members

Robert D. Hogue, Chairperson	Department of the Navy
Chris Brandt, Vice Chairperson	Private Citizen
Matthew R. Beebe	Department of Defense
Tara Jamison	Department of Justice
Jeffrey Koses	General Services Administration
Jennifer Sheehy	Department of Labor
Virna Winters	Department of Commerce

Scheduled Speakers

Richard Belden	SourceAmerica
Soraya Correa	National Industries for the Blind
Dan Kelly	IFB Solutions
Leighann Mazoki	DLA Troop Support
Steven Merch	DLA Troop Support
Lisa Webb Sharpe	Peckham
Dennis Steiner	VisionCorps
Jessica Wallis	DLA Troop Support
Craig Wellons	ReadyOne Industries