



2025 Spring NCSAB In-Person Conference

April 9 – 11, 2025

Hyatt Regency Bethesda

One Bethesda Metro Center

7400 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814

Conference Theme: "How to Thrive and Strive in 2025"

Draft Agenda (Subject to Change)

All times are Eastern

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

8:00 am	NCSAB Exhibit Hall Opens
	NCSAB Registration Opens
11:00 am	CSAVR / NCSAB Concurrent Session.
Noon	CSAVR Closing Session.
12:30 pm	Lunch (<i>On Your Own</i>).
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	NCSAB Opening, Welcome and Meet the New State Directors <i>Dorothy Young, Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and NCSAB President</i>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Opening General Session – Policy Update with Catriona Macdonald. <i>A comprehensive update on federal policies, legislative developments, and efforts impacting vocational rehabilitation and services for individuals who are blind or have low vision.</i>



3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

NCSAB Breakout Sessions

Breakout Room 1 – Business & Employment

Randolph-Sheppard: Business Expansion & Best Practices

Innovative approaches and success stories from state agencies supporting Randolph-Sheppard entrepreneurs.

Breakout Room 2 – Technology & Independent Living

Technology & AI for Accessibility

Exploring the latest advancements in assistive technology and artificial intelligence for individuals with blindness or low vision.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

NCSAB Breakout Sessions

Breakout Room 1 – Business & Employment

Recruitment & Retention of Specialized VR Staff

Strategies for addressing hiring challenges in Orientation & Mobility, Braille, Tech Instruction, and VR Counseling.

Breakout Room 2 – Technology & Independent Living

Independent Living & OIB Success

Innovative programs, funding strategies, and success stories from Older Blind initiatives.

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

NCSAB Welcome Reception & Exhibitor Showcase – “How to Thrive and Strive in 2025”

Kickoff your NCSAB conference experience with a Welcome Reception, where you’ll catch up with industry colleagues, make new friends, and create connections. Make sure to attend this valuable networking event, where conference exhibitors will also share special presentations.



THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

8:00 am	NCSAB Registration Opens.
	NCSAB Exhibit Hall Opens.
	NCSAB General Session and Exhibitor Showcase with Dorothy Young, NCSAB President.
8:30 am - 9:15 am	TBA (Proposal Topics)
9:15 am – 10:00 am	TBA (Proposal Topics)
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Networking Break & New Directors Forum
10:30 am – 11:15 am	TBA (Proposal Topics)
11:15 am – Noon	TBA (Proposal Topics)
Noon – 1:30 pm	NCSAB Committee Working Lunch Breakout Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NCSAB Technology Committee○ NCSAB Transition Committee○ NCSAB Employment Committee○ NCSAB Independent Living/Older Blind Committee○ NCSAB Randolph-Sheppard Committee
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	TBA (Proposal Topics)
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	TBA (Proposal Topics)
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	TBA (Proposal Topics)
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Networking Break.



4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **How to Thrive and Strive in 2025.**

5:00 pm **Adjourn for the Day**

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2025

8:00 am **NCSAB Executive Committee Meeting (Committee Members Only).**

NCSAB Registration Table Opens.

NCSAB Exhibit Hall Opens.

9:00 am – 9:30 am **NCSAB Business Meeting and Committee Reports.**

9:30 am – 10:30 am **Consumer Organizations Priorities and Updates – *Panel Discussion.***

10:30 am – 11:30 am **General Session**

11:30 am – Noon **Closing Session**

Dorothy Young, Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and NCSAB President

Noon **Conference Adjourns**