

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
February 18, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Bill Dunham, Jack McMahan, William Ginn, Melinda Bunch, Jane Ciorba, Rick DeRennaux, Audrey Farnum, Brenda Fitzgerald, Lisa Graven, Ginger Jaggars, Nancy Landrum, Diana Garrett, Terrisha Osborn, Katie Woodward, Melinda Freundt, Jean Jones

Members Absent: Noel Tyler, TK Dannelley, Elizabeth Reeve, Tina Spence, Kim Osmani

Others Present: Paul Adams, Terri Williams Murphy, Rob Gragg, Mark Kinnison, Suzanne Williams, Jon Ringlero, Mike Goza

Council Support: Linda Jaco Director of Sponsored Programs OSU Department of Wellness, Renee Sansom, ORC Programs Manager and Haley George ORC Grant Coordinator.

Call to order and Roll Call: Bill Dunham ORC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum established.

Consumer Comments/Announcements: None

Action Items:

-Approval of November 19, 2015 ORC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Motion made to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded and passed.

Committee Reports: Copies of reports provided in the ORC meeting packet.

ORC Executive Committee Report – Bill Dunham presented and reviewed the written committee report.

Policy & Legislative Committee – William Ginn presented and reviewed the written committee report.

Planning & Program Committee –Melinda Freundt presented and reviewed the written committee report.

Transition & Employment –Renee Sansom presented and reviewed the written committee report.

Workforce Systems Update- Melinda Freundt:

- The Governor’s Council on Workforce and Economic Development met on January 29, 2016. Will have 8 comprehensive one-stop areas. Final decision to be made around July 1. Agenda and items may be found on www.oklahomaworks.gov (Governor’s Council).
- Unified State Plan: Open for public comments until March 1 – full draft may be found on www.oklahomaworks.gov

- Southern Beta Project
- Comprehensive One-Stop Centers
 - McAlister, Muskogee, Pryor, Tulsa East Gate, OKC Brokewood Center and Altus or Clinton.
 - Two areas: northwestern and south central that have not met yet to have the conversation on one-stop delivery
 - 3 areas commonly talked about
 - Intake/application
 - Vocational assessments
 - Employment Plans
- Oklahoma to keep case management systems
- Co-locating
- Cost Sharing
 - Identification of Shared Costs
 - Shared Cost Budget
 - Methodologies for cost allocation and resource sharing (cash and noncash resources)
 - Identification of Services – Common are Assessment, Intake and Employment Plan
- Process and Service Maps
- Southwest, Tulsa, Central Oklahoma, Northeast areas have been meeting

DRS Interim Director Report- Noel Tyler:

No report given due to the absence of Noel Tyler

VS Administrator's Report –Paul Adams for Doug Boone:

- There are currently several job openings and recruiting for those positions will begin very soon
- Several retirements are happening in VS this year
- Recently took a tour of NewView Oklahoma City
- There are several one week summer trainings going to be held for youth aged 14-15 across the state
- There was a 12 minute video created to show a blind person's success and a child's potential
- Doug was recently elected to the board of NCSAB as a member at large and is also chairing a committee
- The DRS award ceremony held in December acknowledged several VS counselors and teachers
- Paul shared a success story of a client who graduated law school and went on to land a job working at a law firm

VR Administrator's Report – Mark Kinnison:

- Wages are pretty much flat at this point as compared to last year. We still have three quarters to go so I'm hopeful we will increase
- Applications and plans are slightly up compared to last year at this time, and our closure totals are slightly down about 70. We are averaging 6 days on presumptive eligibility. Our average application to eligibility rate is 29 days. Our average eligibility to plan rate is 53 days.
- The progress on WIOA remains slow. We will be meeting with the McAlester area again soon. Our staff has been great participators in the meetings regarding comprehensive work locations. Melinda Fruendt, Cheryl Gray, and Kevin Statham have been very helpful in the preparation of the events to come.
- I am encouraging all VR employees to attend Disability Awareness Day. Big thanks to Dana Tallon and Jody Harlan for the push on this.
- Kim Osmani and our transition folks are starting to make plans for summer programs. One of particular interest is a summer camping adventure in SW OK., where kids will gain work skills.
- The VR/VS folks out in NW Oklahoma are working with the Woods County Coalition to host a transition training event that will include school teachers, a few principals and career counselors from the local Vo. Techs.
- I recently met with Superintendent Varner, to discuss summer jobs for OSD students.
- We are planning to partner with the ORC to do outreach in terms of Business Services. Renee Sansom has been great to work with.
- Rob Gragg has continued to meet with staff throughout the state to develop strategies to develop effective employer/VR relations. Also, Dennis Milton is hosting a series of workshops on Saturdays titled "How to Not Get Fired". There was also a workshop provided to counselors regarding "How to Effectively Write KSA's" (Knowledge Skills and Ability Information).
- Jon Ringlero is off and running as our new Tribal Liaison.
- I am working with Renee Sansom, ORC/PM to capture at least 50 very good VR success stories. These will be used for promotional efforts.
- We have conducted AT Coordinator interviews and hope to make an offer soon.
- Richard Yahola has been hired as our new PMII over the Vocational Evaluation Program, and Psych Assistant Program.
- The Tulsa Transition group will be holding their annual awards ceremony for students and teachers.
- Jonathan Cook and his unit will be holding Senior Days at OSD. This is an annual event.

DRS Field Coordinators' Report – Terry Williams:

Report provided in quarterly packet

Legislative Report – Jean Jones:

- Bill versions and status are available online. Go to www.oklegislature.gov, www.oksenate.gov or www.okhouse.gov where you will find a place on the Home Page to enter bill number and submit to get information on the measure.

- In January state legislators filed 1,725 new House and Senate bills and resolutions. Added to 1,700 bills remaining active from last year, the Legislature will have more than 3,400 measures to consider from now through the end of May.
- The biggest challenge this year may be finding a way to address the state's growing revenue shortfall. State agency belt-tightening has already begun, with reductions in non-essential spending, a 3% across-the-board state funding reduction, and the possibility of another declared revenue failure which could result in further cuts to agencies in this fiscal year.
- Other major topics of legislation introduced this year include ways to increase teacher salaries without raising taxes, expanding firearm carry laws, Medicaid, school funding and use of state education aid for private schooling, state agency consolidation and budgeting provisions, tax credits and tax system restructuring.
- In her State of the State address on February 1, Governor Fallin stressed the financial challenges ahead and suggested Oklahoma can use the current budget crisis as an opportunity to build a new strong economic foundation. Her plan for dealing with the current crisis and stabilizing the balance between state revenue and expenditures for the future included these proposals:
 - For the upcoming state fiscal year, most agencies should receive a 6% state funding reduction. A few, such as the Health Care Authority, Mental Health, Juvenile Affairs, DHS and Public Safety, will see smaller cuts.
 - The Governor proposes targeted budget increases for education, corrections and to improve health outcomes
 - On the revenue side, the proposal is to use some money from state agency revolving funds, eliminate some sales and use tax exemptions, and consider modernizing our sales tax code to look more like other states such as Texas, which applies its sales tax to more categories than Oklahoma. Another proposal is to call on Congress to allow collection of sales tax on online sales from businesses not located in Oklahoma
- The Governor also called for reforms in our state corrections system, including sentencing reforms that will reduce incarceration while still protecting public safety. She also proposed a \$3,000 teacher pay raise along with some structural changes in our education system. In regard to higher education and meeting the workforce needs of Oklahoma businesses, she pointed to Oklahoma Works and the emphasis this initiative places on making higher education possible for more Oklahomans.
- Many newly introduced bills affect Oklahomans with disabilities and the programs that serve them. Following is a sampling of bills that affect DRS, other disability programs, revenue available to support disability services, provisions that aid independent living, common and higher education opportunities, health care options, prevention of disabilities, and employment.

Program Manager Report- Renee Sansom presented and reviewed the written report provided in the committee report packet.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Report:

- We are federally funded using title one part B dollars, and all of our funding for the year went to the wrong state agency. We should've received funding in October, but it went to DHS instead of DRS. So now it's all caught up in a big mess and we're waiting for them to unobligated the funds from DHS and re-obligate the funds to DRS. So we are just in a holding pattern right now.

Other Business:

- Workforce Development Board and Youth
 - Discussion for the East Central board is on track
 - Currently have 4 counties set and going to add 4-5 more
 - CoWib launched new assessment tool cowib.fitfirstjobs.com
- Committee Reps
 - ResCare hired a new program supervisor housed at Brookwood
 - Currently Planning a STEM focused career fest at camp Shiloh in May
- Update from Members

New Business:

- Executive Committee Discussion
- Bill Dunham will bring information on the upcoming Endeavor Games

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next ORC Quarterly Meeting May 19, 2016