

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
August 27, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: William Ginn, Melinda Dobbs, Bill Dunham, Katie Woodward, Jack McMahan, Rick DeRennaux, Audrey Farnum, Brenda Fitzgerald, Ginger Jaggars, Terrisha Osborn

Members Absent: Sidna Madden, Joe Cordova, Jackie Millspaugh, Jane Ciorba, Tina Spence

Others Present: Melinda Freundt, Jean Jones, Doug Boone, Chris Kennedy, Larry Hartzell

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. Linda introduced Renee Sansom, new ORC Program Manager. New ORC Council members were also introduced: Rick DeRennaux, Ginger Jaggars and Audrey Farnum.

Consumer Comments/Announcements: None

Action Items:

-Approval of May 21, 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 –Larry Hartzell presented for Jackie Millspaugh and reviewed the written committee report.

Workforce Systems Update- Melinda Freundt and Linda Jaco:

- Update on the WIOA Core Program details
- Planning Regions process. The WIOA outlines the requirements and process for the determination of regions and local areas including identification, types, initial designation, subsequent designation, process, considerations, designation of recommendations by the State Board, and

appeals. WIOA charges the State with the establishment of regions. The process was consultative in nature including input from system partners at the state and local levels. A public meeting was held in each area of the state (9 meetings total) for input and comments which included local elected officials, local workforce development board members, system customers, staff, partners and stakeholders. After the public meetings were held in May and June, the Workforce Oversight Committee of the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development met to consider the input and comments received.

- The Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development met on June 26. Discussion and voting on: Local Area Initial Designation, Local Area Conditional Designation, Local Workforce Development Board Membership, Eligible Training Provider, Process to Identify Planning Regions. Next meeting is October 9, 2015.
- Key Economic Networks (KENS) regional meetings are being held currently. Governor Mary Fallin is hosting these meetings with a panel and audience participation. Discussion around connecting and aligning Education and Industry needs and to find connections between growth and change. Topics discussed: the skills gap, workforce participation, preparing the emerging workforce, the right skills for the right jobs, the new minimum (more than a high school diploma), metrics on progress, economy, partnerships, Jobs – Skills – Education.
- Core partner meetings going on statewide. They are discussing: strategic/local plans, MOU's/contracts, one-stop center policies and procedures, operating/delivering of services through the workforce centers. Access for All (System accessibility for individuals with disabilities) is wrapped around all these discussions.
- Access for All update: Collaboration between DRS and OESC delivered by Oklahoma ABLE Tech Phase 1 is wrapping up with all the workforce centers establishing an accessibility implementation plan. Phase 2 kicked off in July, this phase will document web-based and software tools and completes an accessibility evaluation of these tools. Ultimately, these phases will provide us with the information needed to move forward in setting the standards for the certification process of all core programs in completing and maintaining accessibility for individuals with disabilities in services and programs offered under WIOA.
- The Workforce System Partners and Core Program Partners are meeting monthly, if not every two weeks. Representing DRS is Cheryl Gray, Chief of Staff. The Oklahoma Works initiatives and efforts are the focus. They have been working on asset mapping, system capacity review, and collaborative impacts. A lot of work is underway statewide on WIOA.

DRS Director Report- Joe Cordova:

No report given due to the absence of Joe Cordova

VS Administrator's Report –Doug Boone:

- Update: Expanding Opportunities for Clients
 - Working on the development of a collaborative agreement with Langston
- Staff attendance at the National Conventions of the American Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind
- In May, attended the Oklahoma Association of People supporting Employment First (OK-APSE) Awards
- New Staff visits to State Office
 - Introduced 3 new staff at the most recent Commission Meeting
 - New opening for a VRC for the OKC office
- Attended the Oklahoma Tribal VR meeting with a number of VS and VR staff
- On June 15-26 fourteen students, age 16-21 took part in and graduated from the Transition Independence Program (TIP) at the University of Central Oklahoma

VR Administrator’s Report – Mark Kinnison:

No report given due to the absence of Mark Kinnison

DRS Field Coordinators’ Report – Chris Kennedy:

Report provided in quarterly packet

Legislative Report – Jean Jones:

- **SSDI Crisis**
 - Social Security Trustees predict an almost 20% cut in SSDI benefits in 2016 unless Congress acts to rebalance the percent of OASDI funds allocated to the disability trust fund.
 - Republicans in Congress see SSDI as full of waste and abuse. They have opposed reallocation of funds to prevent SSDI benefit cuts and want instead to reform the program.
 - Last December House Republicans, as part of their budget bill, adopted a rule allowing a point of order against any motion to transfer funds from the retirement to disability fund, unless there is a broader agreement on overall Social Security reform. The joint budget resolution adopted by both houses also contained this feature to make it more difficult to fix the SSDI situation by pitting retirees against disabled.
 - Focusing on reforms, Oklahoma Senator Lankford has joined Hatch and others to introduce two bills affecting SSDI. One is S. 499, titled the Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act. Lankford has also joined Hatch in sponsoring a bill to tighten up on the medical evidence used in determining disability. This bill is S. 1198 on Medical Sources of Evidence of Disability.
- **Transportation**
 - Extension of the nation’s surface transportation law is long overdue. Congress has taken the course of making very short extensions, just to ward off a funding halt. Public transit funding and transit planning are affected.

- OK Senator Inhofe has forged a bipartisan long-term transportation reauthorization bill which has passed the Senate, with no House action. Instead, the House has passed a 3-month extension, lasting only until the end of October. The Senate also approved this short extension, to keep funds flowing. However, Inhofe and Senate colleagues still seek a long-term bill.
- **Appropriations**
 - Federal appropriations bills have not been adopted yet, so the likelihood is Congress will do a Continuing Resolution in the form of an omnibus bill that sets funding levels for all federal departments and programs. Congress is now in recess but will return September 8 and quickly take up appropriation legislation.
- **State Activity**

These interim legislative studies are of interest to us:

- Administrative rules process
- HB-1512 – educational interpreters
- State employee pension status and reforms
- Governor appointment of all agency directors
- State agency use of federal funds – strings attached, dependence on federal money.

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

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Report – Sidna Madden:

No report given due to the absence of Sidna Madden

Other Business:

- Introduction to new council members
 - 1 new appointment pending, 3 removals, 4 open positions
- Updates from council members

New Business:

- Executive Committee Discussion regarding composition of Executive Committee for FFY 16. Executive Committee composition will continue with the same individuals: Bill Dunham, Jack McMahan, William Ginn and Jackie Millspaugh. Judy Atkins has retired. Approved by a motion, which was seconded and passed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next ORC Quarterly Meeting November 19, 2015

Next Strategic Planning scheduled for October 8, 2015