

## Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council

### Policy and Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 31, 2016

10:00 – 11:30am

Present: Renee Sansom, Linda Jaco, Jean Jones, Melinda Bunch, William Ginn, Jack McMahan, Katie Woodward

- State Plan Review
  - SB- 1361 Insignia legislation – SB 1361 by Halligan required the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to issue rules to remove the word “handicapped” from any signs or other means of communication where the word appears. It directed OMES to issue rules to require that wherever the current universal accessibility symbol appears on any state property, it would be replaced with a new symbol showing a forward leaning figure in a wheelchair depicting motion. The bill applied to new or replacement signs. The bill was not heard in the Senate Health and Human Services.
    - Waiting to hear the future of financials in the state
    - Still awaiting additional information on the passing of this bill
  - Cell Phone surcharge bill was not introduced to legislation
  - SB- 1005 and HB- 2686 legislation – ABLE bills would create a structure for savings accounts that could be used by individuals with disabilities to pay for disability- related expenses. Funds in the accounts could be built up to \$100,000 without threatening the individual’s eligibility for many federal means- tested programs such as Medicaid and SSI. The accounts were made possible by 2014 federal legislation, the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, which allowed states to adopt legislation making the accounts available to state residents with disabilities that began by age 26. Both bills are on General Order in their respective house of origin.
    - Currently the bill is still alive in Oklahoma and could possibly be picked off of another states bill.
    - Over 30 states already have this bill
    - Has passed the committee and is on to the house next
- Design of a new Disability Primer
  - Needs to be complete by 7/1/16
  - Specific to WIOA and Workforce information
  - Update numbers to match current data
  - Jack sent out information to help with the update
    - <http://kesslerfoundation.org/kfsurvey15>
    - <http://www.disabilitycompendium.org/annual-report>
  - Focus on transportation and employment
- Disability Awareness Day
  - April 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 4:30 pm
  - Wear Green
  - Go over who all will be a leader
  - Present Disability Primer and new consumer success story sheet

- Updates
  - Candidate Forum will be coming up July 23 at the Oklahoma History Center
  - ABLE Tech has applied for the Christopher Reeve Grant and is awaiting a response
  - Upcoming conferences for the FAR (Family Alliance Resource) to help parents with a disability
  - Renee to invite Sidna Madden from SILC to a quarterly meeting and present. Also, get with SILC to look at their goals and objectives.
  - Renee to share success stories with DRS and come up with an Oklahoma County Map on the website as well as in the office to “pin” down what counties have been served and the story associated with each one.
- Adjourn