

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
November 19, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: Bill Dunham, Jack McMahan, William Ginn, Jane Ciorba, TK Dannelley, Rick DeRennaux, Melinda Dobbs, Audrey Farnum, Brenda Fitzgerald, Lisa Graven, Nancy Landrum, Elizabeth Reeves, Tina Spence, Katie Woodward.

Members Absent: Jackie Millspaugh, Joe Cordova, Diana Garrett, Ginger Jagers, Terrisha Osborn

Others Present: Melinda Fruendt, Jean Jones, Paul Adams, Mark Kinnison, 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 9:37 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum established.

Consumer Comments/Announcements: None

Action Items:

-Approval of August 27, 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 Fruendt 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 Fruendt:

DRS Director Report- Joe Cordova:

- No report given due to the absence of Director Cordova
- Please find the October 2015 Report to staff transcript at the link below
 - http://www.okrehab.org/drupal/director/2015-10-Report-to-Staff-Trans?_ga=1.109527683.700432785.1451939597

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

- We had the Business Enterprise Program on August 28th and 29th annual conference.
- Staff also attended the Oklahoma Council of the Blind in September. We had approximately 24 staff at the convention.
- Director Cordova was able to visit some of the out-of-state offices.
- On October 19th, we went to Tulsa once again to meet with counselors and it was a meeting chaired by our Business Service Coordinator Rob Gregg regarding the approaches for working with and implementing improve job placement.
- We also participated in the Transition Summit that was occurred on October 12th through the 14th.
- Visual Services and the counselor and consumer recognition has been acknowledged by the Oklahoma Works Alumni and Business Leadership Celebration.
- In August we were able to travel to the USA Business Leadership Network conference in Austin, Texas
- We had several recent retirements, Vicky Golightly, who was the Public Information Officer at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and Joan Blake, deaf-blind specialist for the agency. We wish them well and will miss the very good contribution that they've made to us in the past.

VR Administrator's Report – Mark Kinnison:

- We finished our 2015 production year with an increase in overall successful closures and a wage increase of approximately 4%.
- We failed our 1.2 indicator which is the ratio of successful to non-successful closures. We will have an increased focus on this indicator for this year as part of the Governors expectations of Oklahoma Works.
- We are preparing for the implementation of WIOA. We hope the final regulations will be out in March or sometime around that period. So far we are assuming that one of the comprehensive work centers will be in McAlester. Our staff have been meeting with other partners to prepare for our staff or at least a portion of our staff to re-locate to the center. Rumors are that there will also be a Comprehensive Center in South Oklahoma City, and possibly Altus or Clinton.
- We are having some difficulty filling positons in NE Oklahoma and in our Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Units. We are continuing our efforts to find qualified applicants.
- One of the initiatives we hope to take on in the new year is an increase in OJT and Internships for our Job Seekers. We have received a Technical Assistance grant from Grant from Boston University and are in the beginning stages of working with our Business Services team to make this happen.
- We have filled the Program Manger II position that supervises our Vocational Evaluation and Psych. Assistant program. Richard Yahola will do a fine job and I'm glad to have him on board.

- We are hoping to fill a position that will serve as an Assistive Technology Coordinator. Our hopes are to have interviews in January. However the recent state budget situation may prevent this.
- We have a new office in Lawton, and are anticipating moves in Norman, Edmond, and Midwest City in the future. In addition to these future moves our Transition Unit in Tulsa is re-locating to the Houston office location. We will have approximately 50 employees in that building.

DRS Field Coordinators' Report – Given by Mark Kinnison for Bill Hayes:

Report provided in quarterly packet

Legislative Report – Jean Jones:

- At the federal level, a bipartisan agreement between Congressional leaders and the White House has averted a government shutdown, provided a little relief from the automatic budget cuts required under sequestration, and prevented both the feared reduction in SSDI benefits and increases in Medicare Part B premiums. The budget and debt ceiling agreement is now law.
- Review of SSDI Reforms in the Budget Bill
- Congress has gotten serious about passing a long-term extension of the nation's surface transportation programs. These include highways, public transit, rail, as well as bicycle and pedestrian modes
- To date no appropriation bills have been adopted for the current fiscal year. Federal funding is being provided under a continuing resolution (CR) which is due to expire December 11th.
- Latest word is that final regulations for WIOA are expected to be issued in the spring.
- Proposed rules for Independent Living were issued on November 16. Independent Living centers and services are now housed in the Administration on Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- As part of a recent year-end omnibus bill, Congress passed the ABLE Act to allow some disability benefit recipients to maintain special savings without losing disability benefits such as SSI and Medicaid.
- At its November meeting, the Commission for Rehabilitation Services approved several legislative goals. Some of these may result in introduction of legislation, although budget and other considerations will impact any final decisions about bill introduction.

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

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Report – TBD:

No report given

Other Business:

- Workforce Development Board and Youth
- Committee Reps
- Update from Members

New Business:

- Executive Committee Discussion

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next ORC Quarterly Meeting February 18, 2016