

## Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council

### Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

9:30 – 11:30 am

Present: Renee Sansom, Linda Jaco, Melinda Fruendt, Suzanne Williams, Rob Carr, Brenda Dawes, Lisa Graven, Rick DeRennaux and Thaddeus Babb

#### Discussion Items

- Employment Report / Discussion – Looked over Annual Report and new success stories
  - Dana Tallon came to the meeting and discussed the Governor’s Executive Web Council Initiative Subcommittee for aging and disability communities’ web portal. This subcommittee will design / create a website available to the public as a “one-stop” portal for Oklahomans with disabilities and the aging population. There are 8 different health and human service agencies involved and Dana came to get user stories. The user stories will help develop the portal by receiving critical input from end users or those who work with and represent the two populations being addressed by the web portal. She is taking these user stories and reporting back to the subcommittee for feedback. Here is the link to the 4 minute video that explains in more detail along with the PDF file to download for the user story. Here is the video and the accessible formats: <http://www.okdrs.org/special-project/user-stories>. Melinda Fruendt stated that David Crowe has a survey at [www.okworks.gov](http://www.okworks.gov) for vendors for their website to complete.
- FFY17 SP Discussion and review – Melinda Fruendt met with Mark Kinnison and Theresa McDermott last Friday regarding the Business services team effort; Melinda reported they like the ‘no show’ survey project as a means to ultimately help counselors and PM’s better serve job seekers. PM is to discuss the survey with Mark and Theresa and with their permission, the Business Services Team as well as the Process Improvement Unit will be involved to assist with the questions on the survey. Thaddeus noted that this an internal and external problem and that that this is a serious problem for the agency. It was also discussed that a review of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook could act as a good guide in providing the committee with thoughtful questions for the survey development. This would need to be approved by DRS leadership before moving forward. It was also suggested that the ORC PM ask other states at the NCSRC conference whether or not they have worked on similar initiatives.
- Suzanne Williams with Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse discussed with the committee the new contract with DRS that will be piloting the Oklahoma Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) Program. There are pilots in Oklahoma County, Tulsa County and Grand Lake Area for programs that are related to transition age youth and adults. IPS is a employment placement program that was first developed in New Hampshire in the 80’s. It has since spread across the nation and this collaborative effort between departments of rehabilitation and mental health is now being successfully used in 22 states – providing enhanced outcomes and case closures. The key to the success of this programs includes the following: In depth knowledge and expertise regarding all areas of benefits planning;

employment placement within the first 30 days allowing for quick income outcomes; peer mentoring; meeting with the clients in the community – rather than having the clients come to the office; job development planning with the employers; and national learning communities to share ideas with and learn from. Other states participating in IPS include: Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, New Hampshire and Washington State. Jackie Shepp has requested a meeting with Noel Tyler.

- Next steps with the committee is further exploration and research as to the causes behind why youth and adults struggle with following through on activities which would provide them with enhanced employment opportunities. Improved efforts need to happen with parents and/or guardians in order to help them understand how to better prepare their children for realistic expectations associated with career readiness and employment. Melinda Fruendt will keep ORC PM abreast of the situation and involvement with the Business Services Team, Process Improvement Unit and Division Administrators.
- Objective 1.1 is to determine whether or not a model or toolkit for the job seekers challenges with ‘no shows’. The committee needs to hone in on how we are going to do this. PI Unit will be utilized (with approval) to assist with the development of questions for both surveys. The first survey will need to be done to the counselors to see in what form or how they deal with ‘no shows’. The 2<sup>nd</sup> survey needs to be formulated to reach the job seeker. It needs to be tailored to fit clients who are being served through DRS. What motivates me? What doesn’t motivate me? Independent Living Issues? We are hopeful that there is a survey that is currently being done that we can add a few more questions to rather than reinvent the wheel. PI Unit to formulate the connections. Activities 1, 2 and 3 are all discussed in the above objective information. The committee would like to ask questions to Diana Garrett for the CIL and Tracy Brigham for the Career Pathways. Here is a link to the Oklahoma State Department of Education announcement of the JP Morgan Chase program (\$2 million grant) that was discussed in the meeting. <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/newsblog/2017-01-12/oklahoma-wins-2-million-statewide-grant-early-college-career-initiatives>. Would be helpful to also collaborate with Transition Committee regarding their efforts to work on Goal 7 of the Strategic Plan.
- Updates – Thadd mentioned that the Tulsa Workforce Board will be moving offices as the provider is up July 2017. He has been in contact with Tulsa Workforce Board regarding Rob Carr for some accessibility events in the Tulsa area. Charlie and Rob have both been invited. Rick DeRennaux mentioned that the Tech Now State Competition is May 4<sup>th</sup> and .he is hopeful that Superintendent Hofmeister will be there as she was invited. Also, Rick stated that they now have all 3 Lawton High Schools. Brenda Dawes mentioned that they are still working on the Access for All contractual activities with DRS and Charlie Watts and Rob Carr are doing that training. Lisa Graven stated that they are having challenges living within their budget as OESC lost 31-33 employees last year and she is down 16 already this year.
- Adjourn