

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
February 19, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: William Ginn, Judy Atkins, Jean Jones, Jack McMahan, Melinda Dobbs, Tina Spence, Bill Dunham, Larry Hartzell, Jackie Millspaugh, Katie Woodward, Brenda Fitzgerald, Joe Cordova.

Members Absent: Juan Garcia, Sidna Madden, Melinda Fruendt, Terrisha Osborn,

Others Present: Glenda Farnum, Kyle King, Terri Williams, Mark Kinnison

Council Support: Linda Jaco Director of Sponsored Programs OSU Department of Wellness, Theresa Hamrick, 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 9:40 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum established.

Consumer Comments/Announcements: None

Action Items:

- Approval of November 20, 2014 ORC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 - Motion made to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded and passed.
- Approval of FFY 2014 Annual Report

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 – Theresa Hamrick for Judy Atkins presented and reviewed the written committee report.

Transition & Employment –Jacki Millspaugh presented and reviewed the written committee report.

National Federation of the Blind Update- Glenda Farnum:

- Attended the NFB Conference in Washington, DC on January 26-27, 2015 with four other NFB members
- Goal of the Washington Seminar is to bring together blind people from all 50 states and Puerto Rico to meet with our legislators to educate them about issues that are of importance to blind citizens

- Gave a brief overview of the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act (HR 188), the Technology, Education and Accessibility in College and Higher Education Act and the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled

Workforce Systems Update- Linda Jaco for Melinda Freundt:

- Provided copy of the report for the council members
- Update on the WIOA work group and the WIOA federal law
- Review of state plan for VR and the WIOA Unified plan
- Overview of Access for all partnership with Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation and Oklahoma ABLE Tech
- Business Services process being created
- Oklahoma Works update

DRS Director Report- Joe Cordova:

- Gearing up for the new Oklahoma State Legislative session. We will be proposing some legislative changes in our department to the commissioners. Do not anticipate any increase in funding and hope that decreases will not be devastating to our program
- We are proposing some amendments in legislation for the two new schools- the school for the deaf and school for the blind, which we hope will assist them in better managing their resources, the other to exempt the two schools from current restriction in property management and lastly, concerning the existing A through F reporting system used by the state. We do not feel those requirements really pertain to the specialized type of education at the two schools
- Staff is broken up in to various groups to review and make recommendations on the new WIOA legislation
- The Social Security Disability Program will start running out of funds in late 2016 if action is not taken by Congress. Congress will begin looking into that carefully next year
- Attended my first advisory group meeting of the return on investment grant. We hope to have a standard measure for the state of Oklahoma on our return on investment
- We had positive media coverage on a former DRS vocational rehabilitation client who graduated early with a high GPA from Tulsa Law School.

VS Administrator's Report – Doug Boone:

- Spoke at the Deaf-Blind Conference at Lake Murray Lodge. Visual Services assisted in sponsoring this event
- VS is moving to establish an AT training classroom in Tulsa to better serve the eastern part of the state
- VS is working with Oklahoma ABLE Tech to expand the knowledge of assistive technology available to our consumers. Counselors will do iPad demonstrations to challenge the thinking of the newly blind individuals. Counselors will assist clients in applying for the technology loan from ABLE Tech

- I along with other staff participated in a new consumer forum sponsored by a Tulsa chapter of the NFB. The goal was to educate potential clients of the opportunities/positive changes to their lives that participation in vocational rehabilitation can result in
- Attended CSAVR and learned more about the changes to the Rehabilitation Act under WIOA
- The library for the blind will be experiencing a lot of improvements that are much needed
- We have developed a rough outline for a summer youth transition training, designed specifically for blind and visually impaired Oklahomans age 16-21.
- Visual Services Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and program managers will participate in a mandatory training on effective use of low vision, in the new year
- We have completed revision of the Visual Services Division PMPs for our program managers, all four levels of rehab counselors, our transition counselors and rehab techs to reflect new directions we are pursuing to achieve quality employment.

VR Administrator's Report – Mark Kinnison:

- Several groups are looking at the implementation of WIOA. Still lacking federal guidelines
- NRA Government Summit and CSAVR/NCSAB are coming up
- Good work on customer quality outcomes. Wages are up and total outcomes remain consistent
- The statewide roll out in regards to Diabetic Training have begun
- Hoping for a Business Framework Rollout scheduled for April
- At the last VR PM/Coordinator meeting we recognized staff for longevity
- PM's participated in Coaching for Quality Outcomes Training
- Kim Osmani reported that we have an 80% placement rate and a 70% closure rate for our Project Search Sites
- Close to announcing a VR Specialist IV position for the Norman area
- Attended a meeting with the VA in which I was asked to serve on a collaboration board. I will also seek to represent VR in the Muskogee area when the VA is ready to pursue that collaborative effort

DRS Field Coordinators' Report – Terri Williams:

Report provided in quarterly packet

Legislative Report – Jean Jones:

- Review of bills introduced this session with potential impact on Oklahomans with disabilities
- List was sent out to all members and the bills can be found at www.oksenate.gov, www.okhouse.gov, or www.oklegislaure.gov.

Program Manager Report- Theresa Hamrick presented and reviewed the written report provided on the committee report packet.

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

No Report Given due to the absence of Sidna Madden, SILC Executive Director.

Other Business:

- Disability Awareness Day

New Business:

- Meeting moved to adjournment

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next ORC Quarterly Meeting May 21, 2015