

## Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council

### Policy and Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

3:00pm– 4:30 pm

Present: Renee Sansom, Jean Jones, Wade Walters, William Ginn, Katie Woodward, Audrey Farnum, Linda Jaco and Carolina Colclasure

P&L Report / Discussion

- There has been some progress with the Interface with the State Treasurer's Office from the visit on November, 2016. There will be an upcoming meeting regarding Oklahoma's implementation of the ABLE Act. They are currently in the process of preparing an RFI to be issued in the next few months and are trying to get as much input from the disability community as possible. To that end they are having a meeting today for interested stakeholders to share their concerns, perspectives and experiences. They want to make sure they implement the ABLE Act in a way that provides the greatest benefit to Oklahomans with disabilities. Milissa Gofourth with ABLE Tech is in attendance today and will provide us with an update.
- Disability Awareness Day: Renee Sansom met with Dana Tallon on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and she will take into consideration the ideas presented to her by the P&L Committee to make the legislative visits better. She will come to the P&L Committee meeting next year (probably in January) before Disability Awareness day to talk to the Committee about the ideas presented so they can be used in 2018.
- Update on Success Stories: We have 19 success stories and Renee has 2 more scheduled in the next week, we are in good shape to have all 24 completed before September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Brenda Fitzgerald will be terming off of the Committee this fall and she will be replaced by Tim Yeahquo.
- Jason Price has been sending Renee names and contact information of clients who have been working for over 9 months and are getting off of Social Security that could be great success stories.
- Jean Jones went over the Legislative Update. The focus has gone to:
  - The State's Budget crisis for the current year has been resolved. DRS received an increase of 7.8% in the budget, they are still not at the high fiscal level they were 3 years ago but much better compared to what was received the previous year.
  - HB 2230: HB-2230 (Rep. Glen Mulready, R-Tulsa, and Sen. Anthony Sykes, R-Moore) exempts county jail commissaries from the state law which gives licensed blind managers priority to operate vending facilities in state and county facilities.
  - SB-733 (Sen. A. J. Griffin, R-Guthrie, and Rep. Leslie Osborn, R-Mustang) was signed and it allows DRS to contract with a private nonprofit local organization, accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC), to operate all or a portion of its program of independent living services for older blind individuals. (Note: SB-733 is permissive, but a bill that mandated contracting out the Older Blind program, HB-1861, remains dormant in the House and could be revived next year.)
  - SB-478 (Sen. Bill Brown, R-Broken Arrow and Rep. Lewis Moore, R-Arcadia) creates the Health Care Choice Act. The goal of the legislation is to increase choice and affordability of health insurance for Oklahomans. The bill allows the state Insurance Commissioner to provide written approval to an out-of-state insurer to sell health or accident policies in Oklahoma. Certain conditions must be met in order for the Commissioner to grant approval for such out-of-state insurance products to be sold in Oklahoma. A compact must be in place between the other states and Oklahoma. Such out-of-state insurers would also have to ensure their health policies sold in Oklahoma abide by all existing health insurance coverage requirements mandated by law in Oklahoma.
  - HB-2406 Osborn, R-Mustang and David, R-Porter: The bill creates the Oklahoma Individual Health Insurance Market Stabilization Act, which prepared Oklahoma to create a high risk health insurance pool to cover individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. A Board is created to

implement the stabilization program, contingent upon approval for and receipt of federal funds. The Board will collect assessments due from insurers, make payments to provide for market stabilization activities, determine eligibility for coverage, determine amount of assessment and/or percentage of premiums paid to health insurance plans for coverage by eligible individuals, establish the reimbursement rate for health insurance plans, and apply for and receive federal funding of the program through approval of a Section 1332 waiver under the Affordable Care Act and/or participation in federal grant programs. The bill essentially positions Oklahoma to put a high risk pool in place if the Affordable Care Act is repealed and insurers are no longer required by law to cover individuals with pre-existing conditions. The bill has been sent to the Governor.

- Strategic Plan Update:
  - Objective 1.1: Ongoing - SILC is going to change the meeting dates to accommodate DRS and ORC, this will help with the collaboration between all groups.
  - Objective 1.2: Ongoing
  - Objective 1.3: Ongoing – Jean Jones recommended to add HR 620 which is a bill to amend the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 to promote compliance through education, to clarify the requirements for demand letters, to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes. SB-80 and HB-1188 are both inactive so we will remove from the legislation that we'll follow.
  - Objective 1.4: Met
    - Activity 1: Ongoing will be met by September 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Activity 2: Met.
    - Activity 3: Met.
    - Activity 4: Met.
    - Activity 5: Met.
    - Activity 6: Met
    - Activity 7: Ongoing, we will get an update from Milissa Gofourth regarding today's meeting.
    - Activity 8: Met.
    - Activity 9: Pending for summer. Renee and Jean will meet this week to get some possible dates and Carolina will contact the offices to schedule the meetings.
- Candidate Forum Discussion: OSU has more restrictions with the budget and it's getting more difficult to use the funds for this kind of activity. The Committee feels like there should some kind of activity to inform the voters, maybe a video where the candidates answer questions regarding disability concerns. Jean Jones pointed out that the main reason this activity takes place is to expose the candidates to the reality of the people with disabilities and to make them aware of issues which people with disabilities must face every day, so it is important to communicate this but she said it could be accomplished in a different way if the format changes. Renee will try to communicate with other Councils in different states to ask if they have something like this and maybe those ideas could be used and implemented in Oklahoma.
- There won't be a Committee meeting after the August Quarterly meeting, we will use the Strategic Plan Meeting as our meeting and it will wrap up the year.
- Adjourn