

The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council complies with the Federal Rehabilitation Act mandates through its strategic plan process and the following functions and related tasks.

The Mission of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) is *“To facilitate consumer education and empowerment, to assure services are of high quality, and lead to employment of individuals with disabilities within the state of Oklahoma.”*

## **Program and Planning Committee**

Review, analyze and advise DSA on the standards and indicators as laid out by Section 106 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended. Active participation on the DRS State Plan Meetings. Active participation on the DRS Statewide Assessment development initiative. Analyze the trends of the VR/VS Open Case Survey.

**Goal 1: In accordance with Section 105 (A)(c)(i) of the Rehab Act, the Program and Planning Committee, will quarterly or as necessary, review, analyze and advise DSA on the performance measurements, customer satisfaction, Statewide Assessment, and other relevant data.**

Objective 1-1: Review, analyze, and advise the Designated State Agency (DSA) regarding the performance of the State unit's responsibilities, particularly responsibilities related to-

Eligibility, including order of selection.

The extend, scope and effectiveness of services provided

Functions performed by DSA that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes.

Submit reports to the RSA Secretary under the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) regarding the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation programs administered by the DSA.

Objective 1-2: In partnership with the DSA, develop, agree to, and review State Plan goals and priorities.

Objective 1-4: To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the consumer satisfaction with:

The functions performed by the Designated State Agency;

The vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the Act; and

The employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving

services under this part, including the availability of benefits (health care, paid leave, etc.) if known.

**Goal 2: The Program and Planning Committee will support quality customer services, career planning and effective employment.**

Activity 1 - Request and review the DSA findings of the survey for open cases, annually or every two years as conducted.

Activity 2 – Review and evaluate Field Coordinators data on the performance activities of the DSA at the quarterly ORC meeting on the performance measurements

Activity 3 - Review and Recommend data and other potentially important information for consumers to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Program Manager for inclusion on the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council website.

Activity 4 - Continue to support disability specific groups and report relevant information to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council.

Activity 5 - Serve as a repository for disability specific groups. Make recommendations to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council for potential collaboration, partnership and/or initiative.

Activity 6 - Collaborate with the DSA through the State Plan process to include the development of the goals and priorities.

Activity 7 - Request tracking of additional information/data from the DSA regarding employee benefits for consumers who have gone to work. Include health insurance, paid leave, retirement and other benefits available.

## **Executive Committee**

Comprised of the SRC Chair, Vice-Chair, and 3 members-at-large. The Executive Committee also consists of the Associate Director and Director of Sponsored Programs of the OSU, Department of Wellness, who oversees the contractual administration of the ORC. Ensures that committees are assigned to meet the requirements of Section 105 of the Rehab Act with regard to Public Hearings, State Plan, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Customer Satisfaction and Annual Report.

**Goal 3: Maintain standing committees that address the goals and objectives outlined by the ORC, the DSA State Plan, and the Rehabilitation Act (i.e., Policy and Legislative Committee, Program and Planning Committee, and Transition and Employment Committee). Every ORC member will serve on a committee(s).**

Objective 3.1: Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public through appropriate modes of communication

Objective 3.2: Resources. The Council, in conjunction with the Designated State Agency, must prepare a plan for the provision of resources, which lists the resources necessary for its operation such staff and personnel. It should rely on current resources. Disagreements on required resources must be resolved by the Governor's Office. The Council must in accordance with the State Law, supervise SRC staff and personnel. The SRC Staff must avoid conflict of interest by not carrying out duties assigned by the DSU or other State Agency that would create a conflict of interest.

Activity 1 - Meet with DSA Division Administrators and the State Director, quarterly, or as needed, to maintain regular communication and collaborate on the development of the agenda.

Activity 2 - As a Council vacancy opens, the Program Manager will recruit, recommend, and consult with the Governor's Deputy of Appointments to ensure membership compliance with the Rehabilitation Act.

Activity 3 - Continue to coordinate with the DSA Division Administrators to ensure attendance of Field Coordinators and associate members to attend quarterly meetings.

Activity 4 - The Program Manager will participate on the DSA's WDB Team.

Activity 5 - The ORC will send at least one representative to the SILC quarterly meetings and a SILC representative will attend and report to the ORC on SILC activities.

Activity 6 - Explore opportunities for orientation of SILC members on the role of the ORC and determine other activities that would further their involvement and opportunity for partnership and/or input with regard to the VR system in Oklahoma.

Activity 7 - Continually review and update the ORC Website.

## **Policy and Legislative Committee**

Activities include, but are not limited to, advocacy and education, policy and State Plan review, State Plan Public Hearings and Success Stories. Also, responsible for the reviewing/monitoring of pending and current disability-related legislation, particularly with respect to impact on funding; suggest/develop legislation as needed. Active participation on the DRS Policy Re-

engineering Committee. Support DRS with both national and state efforts to enhance advocacy activities and services for VR/VS clientele.

**Goal 4: The ORC will build capacity for consumer education and empowerment to showcase awareness and education for both consumers and employers.**

Objective 4.1: To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Advisory Panel of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the State Mental Health Planning Council, the State Assistive Technology Act Program and the State Workforce Development Board.

Objective 4.2: Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State Agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State.

Objective 4.3: Support DSA with disability-related legislation during the Oklahoma Legislative Session.

Objective 4.4: Support DSA efforts with Access for All Initiative for all job seekers, businesses and employers work sites through all levels of Oklahoma Works. Working with the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development (GCWED), system partners bring sharper focus on developing and employing more Oklahomans with disabilities.

Activity 1 - Promote and increase the number of Job Seeker Success Stories (JSS) to be distributed annually to key stakeholders at the DSA Disability Awareness Day, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Capitol Hill visits, the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor. Post new stories quarterly on the ORC website and share with members at the ORC quarterly meetings.

*Note: The target would be a minimum of 12 a year, showcasing successful employment of DRS clients with disabilities. Emphasis will be placed on gathering VR, VS, Tribal, COJAC, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind and Transition stories for the Workforce Alumni Celebration. Tribal VR is to assist ORC with 4 Success stories with the 9 tribes that have a VR program in the state of Oklahoma*

Activity 2 - Continue participation and input with VR/VS Division Staff to ensure the DSA policies are in alignment with the Rehabilitation Act, Oklahoma consumer needs and employment outcomes.

Activity 3 - Partner with DSA on "Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol", by marketing the event, setting up an exhibitor booth, and assisting consumers by

being legislative guides.

Activity 4 - The ORC will partner with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) on federal legislative initiatives by attending the spring and/or fall meetings and by participating in national sub-committee activities and providing updates to full council. The ORC Program Manager will provide the Council with any DSA policy updates during each ORC Council Quarterly meeting.

Activity 5 - Provide public comment on policy changes, promote consumer attendance at all public hearings and distribute flyers with summary of proposed changes and information on public hearings.

Activity 6 - ORC PM will coordinate to share information with OK Congressional members in their local district offices.

Activity 7 - ORC will promote partnership between DSA and OKTVR through a retreat and will include topics like transition and cultural awareness.

Activity 8 – ORC will sponsor ten copies of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) brochure in Braille for distribution in appropriate DSA offices.

Activity 9 – The ORC will sponsor posters for distribution to DSA, Tribal VR, and state legislators.

## **Transition Committee**

Active participation on the Oklahoma Transition Council. Support DRS with statewide efforts to enhance transition activities and services for youth in secondary settings to increase successful employment outcomes.

### **Goal 5: Facilitate the communication of transition services information between Tribal VR, DRS, OSDE, MHSAS, Career Tech, and other agencies/partners.**

Objective 5.1: The ORC will continue to increase and update transition resource links on the DSA website.

Objective 5.2: The ORC will promote the use of the Career Index Plus. DSA to share information regarding the Career Index Plus with VR counselors and clients through listservs and other means.

*WINTAC has hosted a series of webinars regarding the Career Index plus (CIP). The CIP is an easy to use application. It is accessible and includes videos. VR counselors need to understand the purpose of the CIP and the importance it relates to the comprehensive assessment.*

Objective 5.3: ORC will invite the regional transition teams (including educators and VR counselors) to share information (via a one pager, virtually, in person, etc.) regarding the progress of their team plans, including best practices, at the quarterly ORC meetings.

Objective 5.4: The ORC will support participation of the Oklahoma Transition Council (OTC) including its collaboration with National Centers- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT).

**Goal 6: Continue to work with the DSA on the needs assessment of individuals with disabilities for transition career services and pre-employment transition services. This goal will satisfy the final requirement listed in the VR Services portion of the Unified State Plan – Description – Statewide Assessment.**

Objective 6.1: The ORC will continue to collaborate with the DSA Process Improvement staff on the needs assessment instrument to determine the needs of youth.

Objective 6.2: The ORC will utilize the needs assessment on transition services final report in the next state planning update.

Activity 1 - With the assistance of the OTC, the ORC Program Manager will schedule at least one transition team and/or VR counselor to present at the quarterly ORC meetings.

Activity 2 - The ORC will annually review the State Department of Education, Special Education Child Count Data to study trends and report to DSA in order for the DSA to have an awareness of future needs of both consumers and personnel.

Activity 3 - The DSA Transition Coordinator will increase communication with the Tribal VR by including the VR Tribal Liaison in all correspondence that is disseminated to VR Transition Counselors.

Activity 4 - The Transition Committee will research ways to better facilitate communication between OSDE, VR, and Tribal VR and report suggestions to the ORC.

## **Employment Committee**

With an increased emphasis on employment under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), this committee will work together to strengthen coordination with employment and training services for individuals with disabilities who are job seekers.

**Goal 7: The ORC will collaborate with DSA to proactively promote Job Readiness**

**and evidence based supported employment and education to increase employment and education rates.**

Objective 7.1: Develop a one page document involving job readiness and soft skills information to meet the needs of employers.

Objective 7.2: Create a toolkit involving job readiness and soft skills information to meet the needs of employers.

Objective 7.3: Review, Create and Disseminate a flyer that includes the benefits to employ people with disabilities to support the Business Services Unit mission.

Activity 1 – Support the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) and DSA in their collaboration and pilot of the Individual Placement Support (IPS) Model.

Activity 2 – Gather Data for IPS to review potential DSA policy changes.

Activity 3 – Support GALT's soft skills trainings for Consumers.

Activity 4 – Update ORC's website with employment resources.

Activity 5 – Support the preparation of the Business Advisory Council (BAC) Job Fair in October of 2019.