

# Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

The Employment Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 1 pm, via Zoom.

Participants: Sharon Harrison, Matthew Barnes, Amanda Burnside, Amy Synar, Fatos Floyd, Kelli Bates, Linda Jaco, and Carolina Colclasure.

## Discussion Items

### Business Services Program (BSP) and ABLE Tech Partnership

Sharon Harrison reported that the Rose State Business Department has been meeting with ABLE Tech and will be adding to its curriculum a dedicated course within the Social Media Program on how to design websites and other print and social media platforms that are accessible.

Also, a pilot program in one of the Multimedia classes will hopefully start this semester.

### Dissemination of Employment Resources

Sharon Harrison asked Amanda to share more information about Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) with her, as she wants to share it with her network.

Carolina explained that Director Fruendt shared during an Executive Committee meeting that it would be helpful to create and share some resources regarding the Do's and Don'ts of Social Media for Jobseekers. The Committee discussed this idea; Matt Barnes and Sharon Harrison mentioned having previously hosted a similar webinar and indicated they would be willing to assist with such a training effort. Sharon offered to send the information for review.

### Business Advisory Council (BAC) Update

The Oklahoma City BAC meeting will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

The DRS Business Services Program (BSP) has divided the state into two groups. The first group includes Oklahoma City and Tulsa that represent the Northeast and East Workforce Area; they are planning to have a week of job readiness training for DRS clients in February. February 22, day one of this

virtual training, will include information on using Zoom during the morning session followed by a motivational training in the afternoon.

Tuesday 23, Wednesday 25, and Thursday 25, there will be skills training in the morning followed by mock interviews in the afternoon. There will also be an employment panel where clients will have the opportunity to be advised on how to appropriately disclose information about their disability during an interview.

There will be a similar event for the South Central and South Workforce areas in April.

### **Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) Update**

IPS saw a dip in the employment rates of clientele due to COVID, but it is now back up having increased to 70% in the last two quarters of 2020.

Also, because of COVID, no new teams were launched last year; however, they did start a new research project with the Cleveland County Jail and Rogers County Jail. Cleveland County includes Norman; Rogers County includes Claremore. This project serves clients exiting jail who transition directly into employment services. It is a four-year project that is slated to start in June.

The Employment and Housing Summit will be in April; it will be a virtual event this year. The dates have not yet been announced.

### **Dissemination of Employment Resources in an Accessible Format**

Fatos Floyd shared the issues she faces when she receives inaccessible documents and is lacking information on available in-state resources.

Fatos will connect with Linda Jaco after the meeting to discuss further.

The committee will review the Workforce On-Demand Occupation list during the March meeting. They will also determine which business ecosystems the committee needs to reach out to and provide resources.

### **Upcoming Training Opportunities**

The DRS BSP Unit has two Job Readiness trainings coming up in February and April.

DRS will host a training for Counselors and Techs on how to take advantage of all the services Galt Foundation can provide DRS clients. The training will take place the first week of February.

Also, the DRS Career Expo will take place in October; it will be in Tulsa.

### **Strategic Plan (SP) Review**

The committee reviewed the SP; all objectives and activities are ongoing at this time.

### **Time and location for the next meeting/discussion**

The next ORC Quarterly Meeting will be on Thursday, February 18, via Zoom.

The next Employment Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, March 18, at 1 pm via Zoom.