

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The meeting took place on Thursday, February 18, 2021, via Zoom Virtual Meeting.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Tim Yeahquo, Council Chair, at 9:35 am. Roll was called; a quorum was established.

- a) Members Present: Matthew Barnes, Kelli Bates, Amanda Burnside, Lori Chesnut, Melinda Fruendt, Shelley Gladden, Jerod Gleason, William Ginn, Sharon Harrison, Angela Jaworski, Jeff Newton, Shelly Rentz, Steve Shepelwich, Amy Synar, and Tim Yeahquo
- b) Members Absent: Vicky Golightly, Vikki Walls, Jen Randle, and Donna Sanders.
- c) Others Present: Tina Calloway, Barret Waltz, Renee Sansom, Stephanie Roe, Mark Kinnison, Fatos Floyd, Tracy Brigham, Janice Morris, Tonya Garman, Chris Compton, Teresa McDermott, Terri Williams Murphy.
- d) Council Support Present: Linda Jaco, Director of Sponsored Programs OSU Department of Wellness and Carolina Colclasure, ORC Program Manager (PM).

Consumer Comments/Announcements:

- Introductions.
- Approval of August 20, 2020 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Sharon Harrison approved the August 20, 2020 meeting minutes as presented in the ORC Meeting Packet starting on page 2 - 6. Shelley Gladden seconded the motion. The August minutes are available on [ORC's website](https://orc.okstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/August-2020-ORC-Quarterly-Meeting-Minutes.pdf) <https://orc.okstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/August-2020-ORC-Quarterly-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>
- Council Member's Minutes Approval Vote:
 - ✓ Matthew Barnes – Yes
 - ✓ Kelli Bates - Yes
 - ✓ Amanda Burnside - Yes
 - ✓ Lori Chesnut – Yes

- ✓ Shelley Gladden – Yes
- ✓ William Ginn – Yes
- ✓ Sharon Harrison – Yes
- ✓ Jeff Newton – Yes
- ✓ Steve Shepelwich – Yes
- ✓ Amy Synar - Yes
- ✓ Tim Yeahquo – Yes

The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

ORC Committee Reports

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Tim Yeahquo

The Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 2021, via Zoom. The report was presented and reviewed by the Council. The report can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](https://orc.okstate.edu/meeting-schedules-and-minutes/) <https://orc.okstate.edu/meeting-schedules-and-minutes/>; it starts on page 7.

Program and Planning (P&P) Committee Meeting Minutes – Shelley Gladden

The Committee met on Thursday, January 28, 2021, via Zoom. The report was presented and reviewed by the Council. The report can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under the [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](https://orc.okstate.edu/meeting-schedules-and-minutes/) beginning on page 7.

Policy and Legislative (P&L) Committee Minutes – Jeff Newton

The Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 2021, via Zoom. The report was presented and reviewed by the Council. The report can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under the [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](https://orc.okstate.edu/meeting-schedules-and-minutes/) beginning on page 8.

Transition Committee Meeting Minutes – Lori Chesnut

The Committee met on Monday, January 28, 2021, via Zoom. The report was presented and reviewed by the Council. The report can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](https://orc.okstate.edu/meeting-schedules-and-minutes/) beginning on page 9.

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes – Jen Randle

The Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 2021, via Zoom. The report was presented and reviewed by the Council. The report can be found in its entirety

on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 10.

Department of Rehabilitation Reports

Director Report – Melinda Freundt

The Director report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 11.

In addition, Director Freundt shared that DRS was able to get the Oklahoma Department of Health to agree to vaccine priority for all Rehabilitation professionals, and teachers at the School for the Deaf (OSD) and the School for the Blind (OSB).

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division Administrator – Mark Kinnison

The VR Division Administrator (DA) report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found on ORC's Website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 14.

The VR DA added to his report that he will present at the upcoming Quarterly Meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Career Employment Professionals.

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) Division Administrator Report – Teresa McDermott for Tracy Brigham

The SBVI report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 16.

VR Field Coordinator (FC) Report – Terri Williams Murphy

The VR/SBVI Data report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 21.

Terri added to her report that DRS is doing biweekly waiting list releases instead of monthly to help the Counselors with the workload. On February 3, 93 clients were released, including all clients from Priority Group 1 and some from Priority Group 2. The clients on Priority Group 1 stay on the waitlist for about a month. However, the clients released from Priority Group 2 are the clients that applied on April 1st, 2020. DRS will continue to review the budget and release as many clients as possible.

DRS Project Coordinator Report – Stephanie Roe

The DRS Project Coordinator report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 23.

Transition Report – Renee Sansom

The Transition report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 26.

Renee added to her report that Chris Compton, a new Galt employee, will intern in the DRS Transition Unit and stay through the summer to help with all the upcoming activities.

ORC Program Manager (PM) Report – Carolina Colclasure

The ORC PM report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [February Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 33.

Other Business

ORC Member Updates

Fatos Floyd

The Business Services Program (BSP) had its first Business Summit on October 15, 2020, which is White Cane Day; individuals who are call it Independence Day. The day was celebrated with proclamations from the Governor; attendance was excellent.

Fatos recognized and thanked several ORC members including Matthew Barnes, Kelli Bates, Sharron Harrison, Amanda Burnside, Linda Jaco, and the ORC PM for all their work during the planning process and the assistance provided during the Summit.

In October 2020, all the DRS BSP Liaisons attended the Windmills training and became certified trainers. The Windmills training is an awareness and inclusion training for business. The first training included over 80 people; so far there have been 13 trainings to various companies, and more are scheduled in March.

The BSP will have its Job Readiness Training next week. It will start on Monday, February 22, and will end on Thursday, the 25th. It will be a Zoom event; it will begin with training on Zoom because most of the participants indicated that they do not have Zoom experience/knowledge for effective participation.

The following days include Soft Skills training in the morning and mock interviews in the afternoon. This training is for clients in the Northeastern, Eastern, Tulsa, and Central Oklahoma areas.

The BSP will have a second training in April that will cover the Western, South Central, and South areas. The formats will be the same.

Council Update: Steve Shepelwich

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas is working with the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development (OOWD) and looking at the benefits and where those benefits lie in Oklahoma. They developed a new tool that stacks up on the incentives and the income-qualified benefits in the state in different jobs and employment outcomes to see where a person can reach those benefit clips and avoid them.

It's a tool that is getting a lot of discussion in the workforce. There will be three pilots starting up; it could be an excellent resource for Council members to take a look at overtime.

Steve will provide updates to the Council when available.

Reminder

The May ORC Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.