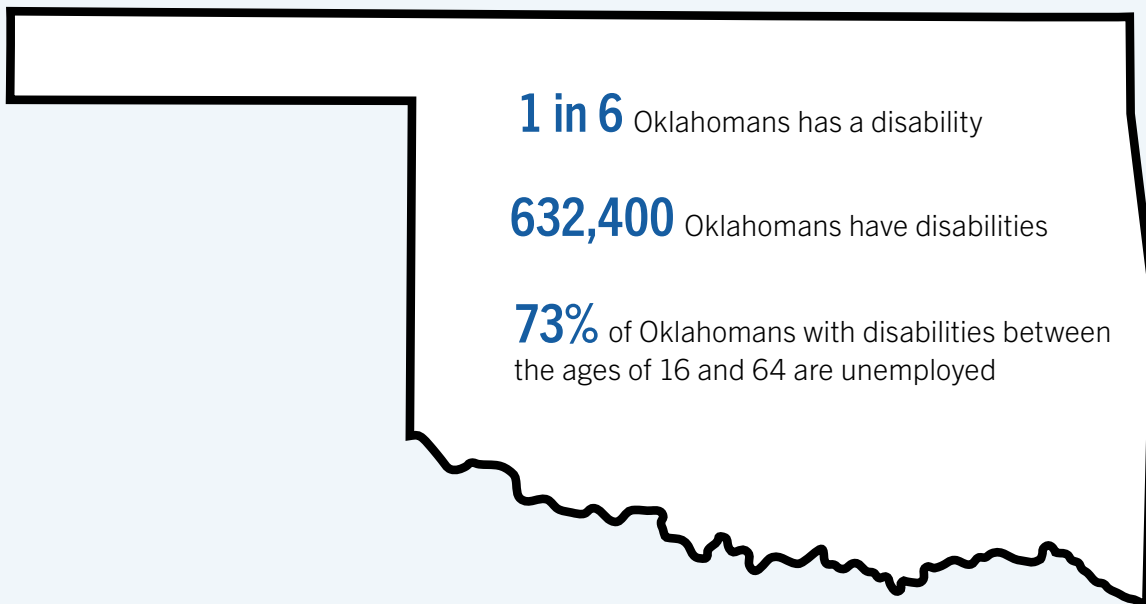




FFY2020 Annual Report

## *Oklahomans with Disabilities WANT to Work!*



### **Mission:**

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 Oklahoma.



Dear Colleagues,

This Annual Report represents the hard work and dedication of all members of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) during FFY 2020. It has been an honor and privilege to experience firsthand the impact that the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS) has on the lives of Oklahomans with disabilities.

The ORC continues to support and play an important role in various statewide initiatives such as Oklahoma Works and Access for ALL, promoting quality employment for all Oklahomans, including individuals with disabilities. ORC continues to monitor the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to ensure that employment-related services offered through OKDRS are of the highest quality for Oklahomans.

In addition, ORC assisted with the planning of various virtual conferences during FFY 2020, including the Oklahoma Tribal Vocation Rehabilitation Services Conference, the OKDRS Career Opportunity Expo, and the 15th Annual Oklahoma Transition Institute.

ORC's mission to advocate and guide individuals with disabilities to better career opportunities continues. We are pleased to be a partner and supporter of OKDRS, its staff, and all Oklahomans with disabilities who seek quality employment.

Sincerely,

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## Table of Contents

Mission	1
Council Structure	4
Quarterly Meetings FFY20	5
Strategic Plan for FFY20	5
Program and Planning (P&P) Committee	6
Executive Committee	8
Policy and Legislative Committee	10
Transition Committee	12
Employment Committee	14
FFY20 in Numbers	15
Cost Per Closure Type	15
Appendix A: Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members	16
Appendix B: Cost Breakdown by County	18
Appendix C: Support Letters	20

# Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council FFY 2020

*We are the Voice of the Consumer!*

## Council Structure

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS) contracts with the Department of Wellness at Oklahoma State University (OSU) for the provision of the staff support services for the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) as set forth in Section 105 and Section 4.2 of the State Plan of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Director of Sponsored Programs at the Department of Wellness hires, supervises, and evaluates a full-time Program Manager (PM) position for the Council's daily operations and a part-time Administrative Assistant. In addition, OSU manages all contractual financial obligations of the Council. In turn, OKDRS provides in-kind services of storage space, phone, and computer access to the council staff.

During FFY2020, the ORC fulfilled all membership requirements of Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act with appointments by the Governor. ORC had 18 members, 3 being ex-officio nonvoting members from the Designated State Agency (DSA). Of the voting members, 60% of the Council is represented by persons with disabilities. The council members are a cross-section of individuals with disabilities who have a stake in vocational rehabilitation services. Members serve for two (2) consecutive terms of three (3) years each, with the exception of the Director of the Section 121 projects.

ORC's structure includes a Chair, Vice-Chair, and three Members-at-Large as Executive Committee members. Each Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee holds the position of Chair on a Committee. At the ORC request, the DSA has assigned a staff liaison to each ORC Committee that acts as a content specialist to that committee; and is identified as an Associate Member. The Associate Members are vital due to the importance of the work of each committee.



## Quarterly Meetings FFY20

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act, the Council scheduled and held four quarterly meetings during FFY20 and had an annual strategic planning meeting.

The meeting dates were:

- November 21, 2019
- February 20, 2020
- May 21, 2020, via Zoom
- August 20, 2020, via Zoom
- September 10, 2020 (FFY21 Strategic Planning Meeting), via Zoom

This year, the Sub-committees met three times to complete the Goals, Objectives, and Activities outlined in the ORC Strategic Plan.

## Strategic Plan for FFY20

The complete version of the [FFY20 ORC Strategic Plan](#) can be found on ORC's website.

ORC complies with the federal Rehabilitation Act mandates through its strategic plan process utilizing the following functions and related tasks.

During FFY20, the work of the ORC was impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Some of its objectives and activities had to be postponed or will be continued in FFY21. The detail of the delayed activities will be listed in each committee report.

## Program and Planning (P&P) Committee

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**Chairperson – Shelley Gladden**

**DRS Liaison – Tina Calloway, Tiffany Davis, and Stephanie Roe**

Review, analyze, and advise the (DSA) on the performance measures as laid out by Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Active participation on the OKDRS State Plan meetings. Active participation on the OKDRS Statewide Assessment Development initiative. Analyze the trends of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) Open Case Survey.

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

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

### COMMITTEE REPORT

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The FFY19 ORC Annual Report was submitted on December 19, 2019; all Committees had a chance to review it before submission to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

During FFY20, OKDRS continues to establish a baseline for the Common Core Measurements. The P&P Committee and the entire Council receive quarterly updates from the OKDRS Field Coordinators during the Quarterly Meetings. The reports include an update on the waiting list, current case status, service activity, transition clients served, and active cases.

OKDRS continues to be under an Order of Selection, and all three Priority Groups are closed. The DSA released clients monthly, based on the budget, and ORC was updated on the waiting list progress during each Quarterly meeting.

The P&P Committee provided a recommendation for the preparation of the VR portion of the 2020-2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Unified State Plan on September 26, 2019. The State Plan was submitted on March 4, 2020, and approved on June 3, 2020. The Unified State Plan will take effect July 1, 2020, and cover program years 2020 through 2023 (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024). The Vocational Rehabilitation section of the State Plan was reviewed and approved by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education.

During FFY20, OKDRS started an important initiative to advocate for the 2020 Census. ORC partnered with them, and the P&P Committee became one of Oklahoma's Complete Count Committees. As part of the training, Nyree Cunningham-Pullen, a Partner Specialist of the U.S Census Bureau, attended the November ORC Quarterly Meeting and shared essential Census information with the entire Council.

After the November meeting, the P&P Committee began sharing resources about the Census with the Council, its partners, other agencies, and the public through ORC's website. The materials included the following information:

After the November meeting, the P&P Committee began sharing resources about the Census with the Council, its partners, other agencies, and the public through ORC's website. The materials included the following information:

- Your Guide to the 2020 Census
- What is the Census?
- Why is the Census important?
- Who is required to respond?
- Who to count?
- Ways to respond to the 2020 Census
- Guide to the questions asked in the Census
- The impact of the Census in your Community

The Committee worked with the OKDRS Process Improvement (PI) Unit to create five new surveys to implement an Open Case Milestone Survey in FFY2020. The goal of the new Milestone Pilot is to obtain feedback from clients in open cases.

The surveys are designed to be completed in 2-3 minutes, are fully accessible, and the clients can submit their responses and comments from any device. The surveys are voluntary, and the Counselor will explain the process to the client when they meet in person; the client then has the option to complete it at the OKDRS field office or receive it by text or email. The surveys are offered after the following meetings:

- The initial interview
- The signing of the Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE)
- The plan amendment
- The annual review
- The supported employment stabilization meeting (if applicable)

In order to make the surveys accessible for Blind or Visually Impaired Clients, ORC purchased five iPads to implement the new Open Case Survey statewide. The offices selected for the pilot were Lawton, Muskogee, Ada, Edmond, and Tulsa.

The Open Case Milestone Survey pilot had to be put on hold because of the pandemic and the work from home ordinance in Oklahoma. The PI Unit plans to continue with the pilot in FFY21, and if possible, more offices will be added.

During FFY20, the Access for All initiative led by OKDRS and Oklahoma ABLE Tech developed a Star Accessibility Framework to measure knowledge and resources pertaining to accessibility for the Workforce System's statewide certification process. This framework creates a systemwide policy that sets an equal expectation for all workforce areas to improve physical and programmatic accessibility, a tool, and a process to evaluate continuous improvement and training resources. The All-Star Task Force attended and participated in the February ORC Quarterly Meeting, presented the evaluation tools and a course catalog sample, and requested Council feedback.

The Council met on March 31 via Zoom to review the materials and to create a list of recommendations that included observations about the evaluation categories, training, and physical accessibility. The letter was shared with OKDRS on April 9.



## Executive Committee

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**Chairperson – Lori Chesnut**

**DRS Liaison – Melinda Freundt - DRS Executive Director**

The Executive Committee is comprised of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Chair, Vice-Chair, and 3 Members-at-Large. The Executive Committee also consists of the Associate Director and Director of Sponsored Programs of OSU's Department of Wellness, who oversees the contractual administration of the ORC and the ORC PM. The Executive Committee ensures that all other ORC committees are assigned to meet the requirements of Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act with regard to Public Hearings, State Plan, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Customer Satisfaction, and the 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, Transition Committee, and Employment Committee). Every ORC member serves on a committee(s).

### COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Executive Committee has been working closely and in direct communication with the OKDRS Executive team; all the goals, objectives, and activities for this committee have been met for FFY20, starting with the Annual Report, which was submitted on December 19, 2019, to the Governor and RSA.

The Council's resources have been reviewed very carefully every month, and a plan for its usage has been followed.

The OKDRS Executive Team, including Director Freundt, Mark Kinnison – VR Division Administrator, and Tracy Brigham - Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) Division Administrator participated in all the Executive Committee meetings as well as ORC Quarterly meetings. The Council has received timely updates from OKDRS, and the OKDRS Executive Team has addressed all questions and comments from the Council.

During FFY20, the Council had three resignations:

- The Parent Center representative
- The Representative of a Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider
- A Disability Advocacy Group representative

All positions were filled, and the new members started their term on September 2, 2020. The new members are:

- Amy Synar, representative of the Oklahoma Parent Center
- Shelly Rentz, representative of a Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider
- Amanda Burnside, representative of a Disability Advocacy Group



Aside from the resignations, ORC had five positions that expired on September 1, 2020:

- Rick DeRennaux – Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor
- Bill Dunham - Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor
- Audrey Farnum – Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group
- Kevin Randall – DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Wade Walters – DRS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Counselor

The new members were appointed and started their term on September 2, 2020, and they include:

- Matthew Barnes - Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor
- Sharon Harrison - Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor
- Vicky Golightly - Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group
- Angela Jaworski - DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Jerod Gleason - DRS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Counselor
- Steve Shepelwich – Representative of the Workforce Development Board

The ORC Executive Committee Members participated in the March 21, Zoom meeting to provide feedback on the Star Accessibility Framework.

Lastly, in FFY20, the ORC PM attended all ORC Committee meetings, ABLE Tech Advisory Council meetings, Oklahoma Transition Council (OTC) meetings, Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) meetings, and the Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (OKTVR) meetings.

## Policy and Legislative Committee

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### **Chairperson – Jeff Newton**

### **DRS Liaison – Kevin Nelson**

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 OKDRS funding; suggest/develop legislation as needed. Active participation on the OKDRS Policy Re-engineering Committee. Support OKDRS with both national and state efforts to enhance advocacy activities and services for VR/SBVI clientele.

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

## COMMITTEE REPORT

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William Ginn, the Client Assistance Program (CAP) representative, was selected as the ORC representative for SILC; he attended and provided an ORC report for quarterly meetings. The ORC PM attended ABLE Tech Advisory Council meetings in FFY20 on behalf of the P&L Committee.

The P&L Committee created two flyers in FFY2020 that showcased OKDRS services and programs. Both documents were disseminated to all State Legislators and the State District Staff of the Oklahoma Congressional members.

The ORC continues to support the DSA during Disability Awareness Day. The activity took place on March 10, and the P&L Chair, Jeff Newton, and the ORC PM attended the award ceremony at the Capitol and assisted OKDRS with 14 legislative visits.

During FFY20, the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) held only the Fall National Conference and had to cancel the Spring one due to the pandemic. The ORC participated in the 2019 Fall Conference in Jacksonville, Florida; Jeff Newton, Jen Randle, Linda Jaco, and Carolina Colclasure attended on behalf of the Council and reported back during the February Quarterly Meeting.

The P&L Committee reviewed the 2020 Policy changes provided by OKDRS during the January Committee Meeting. The Committee created a flyer that included the proposed policy changes, and it was shared with the public through the website. The ORC PM attended the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Public Hearings, held on February 3 and 4, respectively, and read the support letter.

The P&L Committee participated in the planning of the 2020 OKTVR Virtual Conference. It took place on September 2 and 3, 2020, via Zoom. The conference included the following sessions:

- History of American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation in Oklahoma
- Review of the Cooperative Agreement
- COVID-19 resources and best practices

Winona Reid, Wayne Dagele, and Janie Emanuel from the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center (AIVRTTAC) were the presenters. The conference was a success with over 50 attendees, including OKDRS, tribal staff, and tribal partners.

The P&L Committee members participated in the March 21, Zoom meeting to provide feedback on the Star Accessibility Framework.

Activity 4.7, the ORC will assist with marketing and transit plan activities moving forward that were delayed due to the pandemic.

## Transition Committee

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**Chairperson – Lori Chesnut**

**DRS Liaison – Renee Sansom**

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

**Goal 5:** Collaborate with the DSA to address the utilization of in-demand occupation information during the career planning process as well as the enhancement of a job seeker page on the DSA website in accessible formats for all DSA consumers.

**Goal 6:** Develop and conduct a needs assessment of individuals with disabilities for transition career services and pre-employment transition services, including services coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with a Note of: This goal will satisfy the final requirement listed in the VR Services portion of the Unified State Plan – Description – Statewide Assessment.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

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During FFY20, the Transition Committee supported the OKDRS Transition Unit and Oklahoma Department of Education (OSDE) in goals to promote self-advocacy and self-determination resources for youth and their families to increase future opportunities for success by sharing valuable resources with all its members.

The resources included invitations to webinars and conferences:

- Autism Advocacy series - 10/1/2019
- The following Oklahoma Transition Webinars:
  - Cultural Responsive Transition Practices
  - Facilitating Positive Post School Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities
  - Overview of the Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Y-TAC Virtual Convening - 11/11/2019
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (ETS) - 4/29/2020
- How to get involved in your Individualized Education Program (IEP) - 5/28/2020
- A Teacher's guide to involving students in the IEP and transition process - 6/1/2020
- A Family Guide to Involving Students in the IEP and Transition Process – 6/3/2020

The Committee continued to support the Oklahoma Transition Council (OTC) and highlight its work with all the members. The ORC PM assisted with the planning and attended the 15th Annual Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI).

The OTI was a virtual event held on September 28-30 and included the following presentations:

- Introduction to Individual Career Academic Planning (ICAP) and Transition Plans for Students with Disabilities
- What Works: Supporting Youth with Challenging Behavior to be Successful at Work, Home, and in the Community
- Postsecondary Education Programs in Oklahoma
- Transitioning from Congregate Care to a Traditional School Setting
- Pre-ETS for Students with Complex Needs
- Transitioning Assistive Technology (AT) with Students and Documenting in the IEP
- Understanding Culture and Identity through an Intersectional Framework
- Planning and Implementation of Virtual Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Panel—What Works! Work Readiness and Employment Opportunities for Youth

The ORC PM also served as the host during the Planning and Implementation of Virtual Work-Based Learning Experiences session.

Lori Chesnut (ORC Chair/Transition Committee Chair) presented Special Education Child Count Data during the March Committee meeting; it will be used by the OKDRS PI Unit to compare with the OKDRS data for future work.

The Transition Committee invited the Pre-ETS Program Director, Dr. Annie Baghdayan, to the May ORC Quarterly Meeting to share an update on the program and answer the questions of the ORC members on Pre-ETS.

The Transition Committee members participated in the March 21, Zoom meeting to provide feedback on the Star Accessibility Framework.

Activity 7.1, the Committee will invite and schedule at least one student and their family to share a transition experience at one of the quarterly meetings, couldn't be met due to the pandemic.

## Employment Committee

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**Chairperson – Jen Randle**

**DRS Liaison – Fatos Floyd**

With an increased emphasis on employment under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), this committee will work 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.

### COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Employment Committee has supported the OKDRS Business Services Program (BSP) and the Business Advisory Council (BAC) objectives and activities during FFY20.

The Committee helped BSP with the following:

- The planning of the DRS Career Opportunity Expo - February 11 at the Shepherd Center in Oklahoma City
- During the Career Opportunity Expo, the ORC PM assisted as a door greeter, room monitor, and with the mock interviews
- Participation in the BAC meetings in Oklahoma City and Tulsa
- Assistance in the planning of the 2020 Virtual Business Summit, to take place on October 15, 2020

ORC continues to support the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model and is pleased to know that the IPS-OKDRS pilot is still ongoing.

The Employment Committee has supported the Galt Foundation with its soft skills training “How not to get fired.” The ORC PM served as a room monitor during this session at the DRS Expo.

The ORC members and its partners have shared valuable employment resources throughout the year.

The Employment Committee members participated in the March 21, Zoom meeting to provide feedback on the Star Accessibility Framework.

Objective 8.1, partner with the OKDRS Business Services Program (BSP) and Oklahoma ABLE Tech to provide employers in Oklahoma information regarding accessibility in the workplace in order to create a viable employment marketplace for SBVI clientele, couldn't be completed in FFY20. The Committee will continue this objective in FFY21 and will assist when needed.

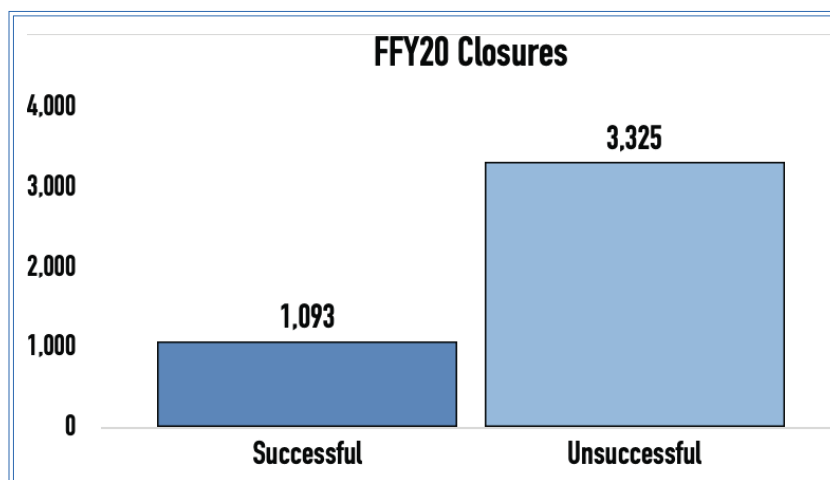
## FFY20 in Numbers

The DSA reported the following information for FFY20:

- 1,093 cases had successful closures
- 3,325 cases were closed without employment after receiving services
- 3,422 new applications were received
- 2,164 plans were written in the year
- 13,217 total Individuals with an open case
- 2,403 individuals were released from the Waiting List
- 1,914 individuals were determined Eligible

### Successful Closures 1,093 vs. Unsuccessful Closures 3,325

- Average days in Application Status: 32 days
- Average months in eligibility: 1.9 months
- Average months receiving services: 28.4 months
- Average months in delayed Status: 4.9 months



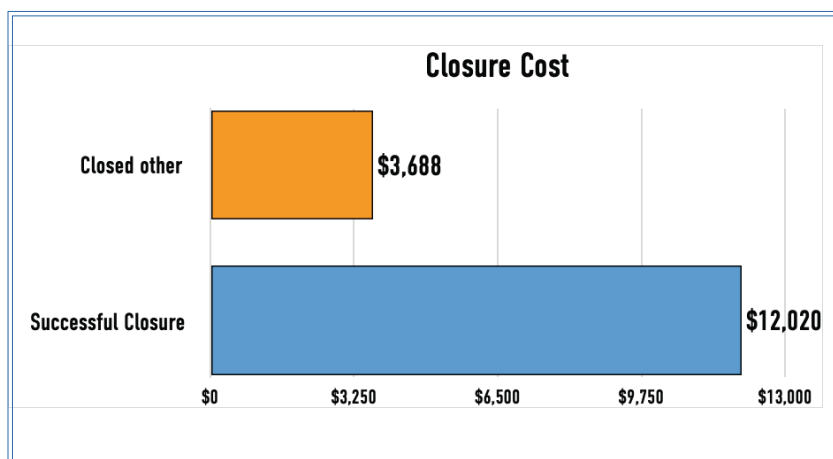
### Cost Per Closure Type

In FFY2020, OKDRS had an exceptional year in terms of SSA reimbursement program achievement, despite widely known worldwide challenges through a good portion of the year. 156 SSI/SSDI beneficiaries achieved competitive employment above SSA’s substantial gainful activity level. This also resulted in \$1,716,225.31 in revenue for the agency.

This was achieved by dedication statewide from counseling staff, management, in-house SSA work incentive counseling, and many other services. OKDRS leadership continues to emphasize the importance of leveling the playing field for Oklahomans with the most severe disabilities. We will build on the momentum from FFY20 to achieve more success in the new year.

#### Order of Selection Information

The DSA was under an Order of Selection for the FFY20.



## Appendix A: Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members

### ORC MEMBERS

#### **Matt Barnes\*\***

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\* *Finish the term on September 1, 2020*

\*\* *Started the term on September 2, 2020*

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## Appendix B: Cost Breakdown by County

County	DVR Transition Cases	DVR Transition Avg. Case Costs	DVR Adult Cases	DVR Adult Avg. Case Costs	SBVI Transition Cases	SBVI Transition Avg. Case Costs	SBVI Adult Cases	SBVI Adult Avg. Case Costs
Adair							1	\$7,132
Alfalfa			1	\$121				
Atoka	3	\$22,566	2	\$22,567				
Beckham	1	\$20,651	3	\$7,573			1	\$0
Blaine	4	\$30,363	1	\$6,940				
Bryan	3	\$30,896	6	\$22,433			1	\$5,031
Caddo	3	\$29,117	5	\$17,645			2	\$11,988
Canadian	2	\$5,692	7	\$10,026			3	\$4,818
Carter	1	\$26,593	5	\$11,143			1	\$4,289
Cherokee			4	\$8,479				
Choctaw	2	\$4,714						
Cleveland	11	\$19,735	42	\$13,657	5	\$33,374	4	\$9,342
Coal	2	\$12,639	1	\$11,679				
Comanche	8	\$10,975	26	\$8,183			2	\$15,195
Craig	3	\$3,350	1	\$1,833				
Creek	13	\$8,184	15	\$10,071			1	\$564
Custer	5	\$15,769	3	\$4,454				
Delaware	1	\$4,838	4	\$7,599				
Dewey	2	\$10,158	1	\$1,346				
Garfield	10	\$12,477	24	\$7,206			2	\$5,636
Garvin	1	\$23,824	6	\$3,720			2	\$5,741
Grady	1	\$20,329	10	\$7,667			2	\$5,857
Grant	1	\$0						
Greer			2	\$11,378				
Harmon			2	\$4,857				
Harper			1	\$32,166				
Haskell	2	\$23,735	3	\$6,359			1	\$8,532
Hughes	4	\$12,211	2	\$4,599			1	\$11,906
Jackson			7	\$5,558				
Jefferson							1	\$3,209
Johnston			3	\$18,436				
Kay	1	\$2,930	14	\$5,885				
Kingfisher	1	\$16,025	3	2992.77				
Kiowa	3	\$4,077	3	\$42,288				
Latimer	2	\$6,341	5	\$19,597				
Le Flore			10	\$18,120				
Lincoln	6	\$9,440	4	\$17,131			1	\$644

County	DVR Transition Cases	DVR Transition Avg. Case Costs	DVR Adult Cases	DVR Adult Avg. Case Costs	SBVI Transition Cases	SBVI Transition Avg. Case Costs	SBVI Adult Cases	SBVI Adult Avg. Case Costs
Logan	2	\$2,120	8	\$11,330				
Love							1	\$3,734
Major			3	\$28,022				
Marshall	1	\$1,709	1	\$2,325				
Mayes	5	\$2,654	6	\$4,745				
McClain	4	\$6,162						
McCurtain	5	\$6,275	4	\$10,291			2	\$14,580
McIntosh	1	\$3,853	6	\$10,281				
Murray	2	\$3,253	6	\$3,558				
Muskogee			9	\$5,372	1	\$14,590	1	\$5,475
Noble	1	\$2,770					1	\$1,155
Nowata			2	\$3,872				
Okfuskee			3	\$5,788				
Oklahoma	65	\$9,721	141	\$11,276	3	\$31,787	21	\$15,401
Okmulgee	1	\$5,792	8	\$9,597	1	\$50,734	1	\$3,456
Osage	4	\$4,320	4	\$5,661				
Ottawa			2	\$3,185				
Pawnee	4	\$4,876	4	\$9,682				
Payne	6	\$26,072	17	\$25,688			2	\$1,568
Pittsburg	4	\$18,133	16	\$27,777			1	\$15,244
Pontotoc	10	\$8,985	4	\$21,920				
Pottawatomie	7	\$14,084	13	\$10,527			1	\$15,024
Pushmataha	1	\$731	3	\$11,532				
Roger Mills			1	\$600				
Rogers	8	\$4,132	12	\$12,600			1	\$2,427
Seminole	6	\$3,801	3	\$6,092				
Sequoyah	4	\$4,077						
Stephens	2	\$13,849	5	\$5,444	1	\$51,374	5	\$3,656
Texas	1	\$22,352						
Tillman			3	\$17,536			2	\$13,078
Tulsa	59	\$11,330	132	\$12,889			12	\$14,659
Wagoner	4	\$10,494	9	\$6,695			1	\$3,076
Washington	1	\$5,545	17	\$8,132				
Washita	1	\$2,172	2	\$60,896			1	\$9,435
Woods			2	\$12,918			1	\$6,971
Woodward	1	\$6,623	4	\$2,618				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>\$10,991</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>\$11,603</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$36,372</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$7,151</b>

## Appendix C: Support Letters

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October 16, 2020

On behalf of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC), we proudly present you with this 2020 Annual Report. The Council intends to have this annual report be a summary of the activities undertaken by the ORC during the past year. Council members are extremely proud to work with and advise the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS) and represent the consumer's voice.

During FFY20, the OKDRS received 3,422 new applications, and 1,093 people completed Individual Plans for Employment and were successfully rehabilitated. The ORC would like to congratulate OKDRS (which includes both Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired) in providing superior services statewide to individuals with disabilities. These accomplishments would not have been achieved without the entire OKDRS staff's dedication, who worked diligently to provide quality services that enhance Oklahomans with disabilities excellent career opportunities.

The ORC's five standing committees (Program and Planning, Executive, Employment, Policy & Legislative and Transition) continue to work with OKDRS on major program issues expressed in this report. Several ORC members continue to grow their understanding of disability concerns by attending national training and education opportunities, which increases the knowledge, skills, and abilities to improve the overall effectiveness of the Council. The Council continues to focus on understanding the law and appreciates all the support OKDRS provides to ensure we are more aware of how this law will impact consumers.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chair of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council for the past three years, and I am excited to continue to serve as a Past Chair. The ORC members are a diverse and dedicated group who take their advocacy role seriously and are honored to partner and provide leadership to the OKDRS and its consumers.

Respectfully,

Lori Chesnut, Chair



**OKLAHOMA  
Rehabilitation Services**

**► Executive Services**

October 6, 2020

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council  
3535 NW 58th Street Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK73112

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members:

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS) is a dynamic agency committed to service quality and excellence. This excellence requires building successful relationships and a system of performance. The long-standing partnership our agency has with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council remains critical to our agency vision, mission, and values by providing guidance, input and recommendations to vocational rehabilitation services that maximize employment opportunities and reflect the needs of consumers with disabilities.

On behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, thank you for your continued collaboration, support and advocacy for Oklahoma consumers with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Melinda Fruendt,  
Executive Director

Cc: file copy

3535 N.W. 58th Street, Suite 500, Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
o: 405-951-3400 | f: 405 951-3529 | Oklahoma.gov | okdrs.gov

Executive Director Melinda Fruendt  
Commissioners Theresa Flannery, Wes Hilliard, Jace Wolfe



**OKLAHOMA  
Rehabilitation Services**

**Executive Services**

October 13, 2020  
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council  
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Dear Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members,  
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) for its outstanding collaboration, and partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS).

I would like to express my appreciation to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) for its tremendous work and partnership with Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services (ORS).

The ORC continues to be active in assisting ORS with policy and recommendations regarding delivery of service in many areas as a result of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The ORC also continues to be involved in projects such as Disability Awareness Day, which is an annual event that is vitally important to the success of ORS. The ORC partners with ORS to continuously improve relationships with consumers' as well as other groups that provide services to Oklahomans with disabilities.

In closing, I would like to thank Carolina Colclasure for her work and involvement with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. I look forward to working with the ORC next year and many years to come.

Sincerely,

Mark Kinnison, M.Ed., CRC, LPC-S  
Division Administrator, Vocational Rehabilitation

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Executive Director Melinda Freundt  
Commissioners Theresa Flannery, Wes Hilliard, Jace Wolfe



**OKLAHOMA  
Rehabilitation Services**

**Executive Services**

October 7, 2020  
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council  
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Attn: Carolina Colclasure

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members:  
The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired sincerely value our long standing partnership with the ORC. We have been fortunate to work alongside the Council for many years to advocate for Oklahoman's with disabilities and specifically blindness and low vision.

The past year has been a collaboration in completing many goals with the Council serving as the voice of hundreds of clients and potential clients across the state. The council has also been strong in its support of agency programs and a resource to agency staff toward providing service excellence. A great example of the support is the Assistive Technology training provided by the Council through ATIA for DRS employees to become more proficient in technology and accessibility topics. Technology becomes more vital every day!

I'm proud of the working relationship the Department of Rehabilitation Services has with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council. We are all working toward the same goal and, if we work together, we will accomplish so much!

Sincerely,

Tracy Brigham, LPC  
Division Administrator,  
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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Executive Director Melinda Freundt  
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**ORC**  
OKLAHOMA  
**REHABILITATION**  
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