

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

The Employment Committee met on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 1 pm, via Zoom.

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

Strategic Plan Review

Business Services Program (BSP) and ABLE Tech Partnership

Sharon Harrison reported that the Rose State Business Department had some circumstances beyond their control that created delays in implementing the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Accessibility pilot program but is still committed to it. ABLE Tech has everything in place and will assist when needed.

Dissemination of Employment Resources

The Committee Members will continue to share important resources with the ORC Program Manager (PM), and they will be disseminated through the ORC Website and the ORC Facebook page.

Sharon Harrison will share more about employment resources with the Committee during the June Committee meeting.

Business Advisory Council (BAC) Update

The DRS BAC will extend the area they serve in the Southern part of the State. Linda Fox, the Business Services Program (BSP) Liaison, is working with the DRS Counselors in the McAlester office to start the BAC there, and hopefully, Ardmore and Ada will be added soon.

The Enid and Lawton BACs will host the Job Readiness training for the Western, South-Central, and South areas on April 27, 28, and 29. The first two days will have presentations, and the last day will consist of mock interviews for the participants.

The BSP will email the ORC PM the agenda and volunteer opportunities for the Committee members to assist during the training.

Develop Employer partnerships in Oklahoma's Industrial Ecosystems

Sharon will share about this objective with the Committee during the June meeting.

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) Update

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) was awarded a technical assistance grant called ASPIRE. It will allow IPS to change policy about employment and recovery across the state and help expand the program to 48 counties. The kick-off meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 30.

IPS will start its new four-year research project with the Cleveland County Jail and Rogers County Jail on June 1. This project serves clients exiting jail who transition directly into employment services.

IPS is in the process of hiring a third trainer, hopefully before the end of the year.

The DRS – IPS pilot program is moving forward slowly. There are two sites within Oklahoma County that IPS is a vendor, and clients are starting to be served. The next step will be to add more Counselors to the pilot program, as there is only one Counselor assigned right now.

Dissemination of Employment Resources in an Accessible Format and identification of critical occupations within the industry ecosystems.

Sharon will share with the Committee during the June meeting.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

The DRS BSP will host a Soft Skills Training for DRS clients on March 25, in partnership with Dress for Success in Tulsa.

The BAC Job Readiness training on April 27, 28, and 29.

Social Media Awareness and Etiquette Training

The Committee will create the content and record a Social Media Awareness and Etiquette training before Disability Awareness Day 2022.

Time and location for the next meeting

The next ORC Quarterly Meeting will be on Thursday, May 20, via Zoom.

The next Employment Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, June 17, at 1 pm via Zoom.