

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee Meeting took place on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9 am, via Zoom.

Attendees: Lori Chesnut, Tim Yeahquo, Jen Randle, Melinda Fruendt, Tracy Brigham, Mark Kinnison, Linda Jaco, and Carolina Colclasure.

Strategic Plan Review

Council Vacancies for FFY2021

The ORC Program Manager (PM) reached out to Chris Bruehl at the Governor's office to inform him that Vikki Walls, the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) member, had not attended any ORC Quarterly Meetings or committee meetings during 2020.

The SILC hasn't responded yet to ORC's requests to name a new representative.

DRS Executive Team Update

Melinda Fruendt – Executive Director

Director Fruendt shared that the Special Populations Workforce Committee met on February 18, and their next meeting will be in April. This Committee will work on one-page flyers that will educate and train other agencies on the programs and services the State of Oklahoma has for individuals with disabilities in special populations. The flyers will be disseminated statewide through an online repository of resources.

The Eastern Workforce Development Board area got merged into Tulsa. They have double the board members now, so they are working on starting over. DRS will have two representatives, for now, David White and Terry Goodson, but changes to this could come in the future.

DRS will continue with its mask mandate for all staff in all offices and both Schools. The Counselors will encourage clients to use their masks but will accommodate them if they decide against it.

Both schools will have in-person graduations following all the necessary protocols.

Tracy Brigham – Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI)

The Division Administrator (DA) met with the architect responsible for the renovation at the Library for the Blind. DRS owns that building, and the plan is to move all the offices located at Shepherd Center to the Library. The renovation will take some time because SBVI needs space for the lab, the training department, and the offices, but hopefully, it will be completed before the end of the year.

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) is interviewing for various positions in the next couple of weeks, including the Business Manager, warehouse staff, and repair technician positions.

Mark Kinnison – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

VR is in the process of moving two offices; one is the Tulsa location with fifty employees that must move by June 30, and the other location in Shepherd Mall that houses several DRS units. These employees will move in April to the Frates Building that is owned by the state.

Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (OKTVR) Update

The OKTVR is assisting several Oklahoma Tribes working on their Section 121 grants this year, including the Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Apache Tribes.

The OKTVR will meet via a Zoom Meeting in the next couple of months. The invite will be sent via email.

Time and location for the next meeting

ORC Quarterly Meeting – Thursday, May 20 – 9:30 am via Zoom

Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 17 – 9:00 am via Zoom