



Quarterly Meeting FY21 May 20, 2021

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 920 6668 9479

[ORC Website](#)

orc.okstate.edu

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Quarterly Meeting Agenda - Full Council Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 9:30am -12pm

Conducted by Video Conference

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Meeting ID: 920 6668 9479

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Meeting ID: 970 1698 1193

Call to Order/Roll Call and Establish Quorum – 7 Voting Members.

Voting Members

Officers

- Tim Yeahquo – Chair, 121 Project
- Shelley Gladden - Vice-Chair, Advocacy Group
- Jeff Newton, Member at Large, OKCPS, Previous VR Consumer
- Jen Randle, Member at Large, Advocacy Group
- Lori Chesnut, Member at Large, Dept. of Education

Business Industry and Labor

- Matthew Barnes
- Kelli Bates
- Sharon Harrison
- Donna Sanders

Community Rehabilitation Program

- Shelly Rentz

Advocacy Groups

- Amanda Burnside
- Vicky Golightly

Statewide Independent Living Council

Vacant

Client Assistance Program

William Ginn

Workforce Development Board

Steve Shepelwich

Parent Training and Information Center

- Amy Synar

Non-Voting Members

- Melinda Fruendt, DRS Executive Director
- Angela Jaworski, DRS VR Counselor
- Jerod Gleason, DRS SBVI Counselor

Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act Requirements. Notice was given and was posted 48 hours prior to meeting. If you have any accommodations, please let me know 5 days ahead of time to make those available to you, contact Carolina Colclasure at 405-951-3579 or carolina.colclasure@okstate.edu

Associate Council Members

- Tina Calloway
- Tiffany Davis
- Fatos Floyd
- Tonya Garman
- Renee Sansom
- Stephanie Roe
- Barret Waltz

Council Support

- Carolina Colclasure
- Linda Jaco

Consumer Comments/Announcements

Action Items

1. Approval of February 18, 2021 Minutes.
2. Reports:
 - a. ORC Committee Reports:
 - Executive Committee – Shelley Gladden for Tim Yeahquo. The report includes an update on the ORC Vacancies and the Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (OKTVR).
 - Program and Planning Committee – Shelley Gladden. The report includes an update on the DRS – ORC Focus Group and the DRS Customer Satisfaction Survey Pilot.
 - Policy and Legislative Committee – Jeff Newton. The report includes an update on the Advocacy Training.
 - Transition Committee – Lori Chesnut. The report includes an update on activities of the last Quarter.
 - Employment Committee – Jen Randle. The report includes an update on activities of the last Quarter.
 - b. Department of Rehabilitation Reports:
 - Melinda Freundt, Executive Director Report. The report includes activities and meetings attended by the Executive Director and Executive Team.
 - Mark Kinnison, DRS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division Administrator. The report includes an update on VR’s activities during the quarter.
 - Tracy Brigham, DRS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) Division Administrator. The report includes an update on Field Services, Business Services, Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and the Business Enterprise Program.
 - Teresa McDermott, SBVI Field Coordinator Report. The report includes an update on the status of Priority Groups I, II and III; Service Activity; Current

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Case Status; Transition vs. Adults Participants; and Active Cases by age group.

- Stephanie Roe. The report includes an update on Memorandum of Understanding / Infrastructure Funding Agreements; Star Accessibility Course Catalog Progress and Recommendations; System Oversight Subcommittee; Data Collection Tool Submitted for Online Cross Training Course; Recent Events; Upcoming Events; and Save the date.
- Renee Sansom, Transition Coordinator. The report includes an update on transition activities from February 2021 to May 2021 and general Transition updates.

c. Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report, William Ginn.

d. ORC Program Manager (PM) Report, Carolina Colclasure The report includes an update on the meetings and activities the PM has attended since February 2021.

3. Other Business:

- DRS COVID-19 Client Survey Results – Tiffany Davis
- ORC Member Update
- New Member Introductions – Matthew Barnes, Amanda Burnside, Vicky Golightly, Sharon Harrison, Steve Shepelwich, and Amy Synar

4. New Business

5. Reminders:

- Next ORC Quarterly Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 9:30 am, via Zoom

6. Adjourn

Contents

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Quarterly Meeting Agenda - Full Council Regular Meeting.....	2
Approval of February 18, 2021 Minutes.....	2
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Reports	7
Executive Committee Report – Shelley Gladden for Tim Yeahquo.....	7
Program and Planning (P&) Committee – Shelley Gladden.....	7
Policy and Legislative (P&L) Committee Report – Jeff Newton	8
Transition Committee Report – Lori Chesnut.....	8
Employment Committee Report – Jen Randle	9
Department of Rehabilitation Reports	10
Director Report – Stephanie Roe for Melinda Fruendt.....	10
VR Division Administrator Report - Mark Kinnison.....	13
SBVI Division Administrator Report – Tracy Brigham.....	14
Field Coordinator Report – Teresa McDermott.....	19
DRS Project Coordinator Report – Stephanie Roe.....	21
Transition Report – Renee Sansom	22
Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report.....	29
ORC Program Manager Report.....	30
Other Business.....	31
DRS COVID-19 Client Survey Results – Tiffany Davis	31
ORC Member Update	31
ORC New Introductions.....	31
New Business.....	31
Reminder.....	31
Adjourn	31

Approval of February 18, 2021 Minutes

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 to approve 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 Fruendt

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 Fruendt 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.

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Reports

Executive Committee Report – Shelley Gladden for Tim Yeahquo

The Executive Committee Meeting met on Thursday, March 18, 2021, via Zoom.

Council Vacancies for FFY2021

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) position is still vacant. The SILC Executive Director will inform the ORC Program Manager (PM) when a replacement is selected.

Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (OKTVR) Update

The OKTVR met via Zoom on April 28. It was the first meeting since the pandemic started, and the agenda included:

- A presentation from Suzanne Williams about the new Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) program and the role the Tribes in Oklahoma could have
- The Tribal Project Search Initiative

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference

The ORC officers Tim Yeahquo, Lori Chesnut, Shelley Gladden and Jeff Newton, along with Linda Jaco and the ORC PM, attended the CSAVR Spring Conference on April 13, 14 and 20.

Program and Planning (P&) Committee – Shelley Gladden

The P&P Committee met on Thursday, March 25, 2021, via Zoom.

2017-2019 Needs Assessment Partnership

The P&P Committee partnered with the DRS Process Improvement (PI) Unit and hosted a Focus Group on Monday, May 17. The feedback from the focus group will provide DRS ideas on how to expand its services based on the recommendations that came out of the Needs Assessment intake.

Open Case Survey Pilot Update

The open case survey pilot was put on hold because of COVID-19. ORC has purchased four more iPads for the pilot, and they will be used in the VR and SBVI Assistive Technology (AT) Evaluations.

DRS COVID Client Survey

The DRS PI Unit implemented a survey on the effects of COVID on DRS clients in 2020, and Tiffany presented the results during the meeting.

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

The P&L Committee met on Thursday, March 18, 2021, via Zoom.

Advocacy Training

The P&L Committee is hosting an Advocacy Training on May 25 via Zoom. Sanho Steele-Louchart, a fantastic advocate for people with disabilities, will be sharing with the public what it means to be an advocate, the different types of advocacy, and ways to do so as an individual with a disability.

The ORC members are invited and encouraged to participate. A 15-minute segment of the interview will be used for live questions; if you have any questions on advocacy and can't attend, please email questions to the ORC PM.

The training will be recorded and posted on ORC's website as a resource.

Transition Committee Report – Lori Chesnut

The Committee met on Thursday, March 25, 2021, via Zoom.

Transition Resources

The Committee is committed to sharing transition resources with all its members, partners, and various Agencies. The information is sent to the ORC PM, and she disseminates it via email.

This year the focus is on Student and Family involvement in transition planning. One of the objectives the Committee included this year is to invite a Transition professional to share available resources with the Council. Shelly Rentz and Renee Sansom will share information on the Career Exploration project with the Council during the August meeting.

ORC – Sooner Success Partnership

ORC is partnering with Sooner Success to disseminate information about its programs and events. Sooner Success had its first Share Fair took place on December 3, 2020.

The second Share Fair occurred on February 25, 2021 at 11:30 am, and the topic was Social Security.

Transition Folder Update

The Committee has been working since the beginning of FFY21 on a new Transition Folder. The new folders include an update of all the resources and are now divided into three separate Elementary, Middle and High School resources.

Once the Committee approved the content for each folder, it was sent to ABLE Tech for design, and the final draft was approved on April 20. The new folders are now being printed; the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) and the DRS Transition Unit will be in charge of disseminating them to different schools.

Child Count Report

Lori Chesnut shared with the Committee and DRS the FY21 OSDE Child Count report. DRS will use this report's information in their Needs Assessment plan.

Employment Committee Report – Jen Randle

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

Business Services Program (BSP) and ABLE Tech Partnership

Sharon Harrison reported that the Rose State College 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.

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) Update

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) was awarded a technical assistance grant called Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (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 took 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 before the end of the year.

Dissemination of Employment Resources in an Accessible Format

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

Department of Rehabilitation Reports

Director Report – Stephanie Roe for Melinda Fruendt

Executive

February 17 – Director called a special DRS Executive Team meeting to discuss two new projects: Succession Planning and Statewide Employee Engagement Survey results and areas needing improvement.

February 18 – Director and staff reported at the ORC quarterly meeting.

February 18 – Director participated in the Force, One Workforce Oklahoma meeting. Reported on the Special Populations committee work.

February 24 – Director met with Jerry Moore, CIO, OMES, for a meet/greet and discussion about specific DRS IS concerns.

February 26 – Director participated in the Workforce System Oversight Committee meeting.

March 2 – Director and staff participated in the VR/SBVI Performance meeting.

March 2 – Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Operations and Personnel Committee meeting.

March 5 – Director participated in the HEC meeting.

March 8 – Commission for Rehabilitation Services Meeting; DRS Executive Team Meeting.

Recognition

Congratulations to Chris Dvorak, Superintendent, Oklahoma School for the Deaf, for successfully completing the First Year Superintendent Academy.

Executive

March 12 – Director participated in the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth meeting.

March 18 – Director, Tracy Brigham, and Mark Kinnison participated in the ORC Executive Committee meeting.

March 18 – Disability Determination Services (DDS) hosted vaccine clinic for DDS and state office employees.

March 19 – Director participated in the Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) meeting. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, after being selected as one of seven states, asked DRS Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment Support Services unit, to participate in the ASPIRE initiative. Director meetings are now occurring and implementation will soon take place. This initiative is to help people with mental health conditions obtain competitive integrated employment.

March 19 – Director participated in the Accessible Educational Materials Workforce Development quarterly meeting.

March 25 – Director participated in the ASPIRE meeting.

March 25 – Director and staff attended the RSA quarterly call.

March 25 – Director and Stephanie Roe hosted the Force, Special Populations Committee meeting.

March 29 – Director and Janie Ball attended the DRS Professional Development unit planning meeting.

March 30 – Director participated in the ASPIRE Kick Off meeting.

April 1 – Director participated in the ASPIRE meeting.

April 1 – Director participated in the Force, One Workforce Oklahoma meeting. Reported on the Special Populations committee work.

April 5 – Director and Renee Briscoe participated in the SDE Transition MOU annual update meeting.

April 6 – Director and staff participated in the VR/SBVI Performance meeting.

April 6 - 22 – Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Spring conference.

April 8 – April 1 – Director participated in the ASPIRE meeting.

April 9 – Director, Tracy Brigham, and Mark Kinnison participated in the CSAVR Spring Conference Director’s Forum.

April 12 – Commission for Rehabilitation Services Meeting; DRS Executive Team Meeting.

April 13 – Director and staff participated in The Happiness Project; Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Spring Conference.

April 14 – Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Spring Conference.

April 15 – Director and staff participated in the Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) meeting; Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Spring Conference.

April 19 – Director and staff participated in a DRS internal ASPIRE/IPS discussion.

April 20 - Director and Renee Briscoe participated in the SDE Transition MOU annual update meeting; Director participated in the BrightPath Town Hall hosted by OMES; Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Spring Conference; Director and staff participated in the ECM on relief funds for blind licensed managers and equipment and maintenance issues.

April 21 – Director participated in the OK Inclusive Post-Secondary (IPSE) Collaboration Group Meeting.

April 22 – Director and staff participated on the ASPIRE meeting; Disability Determination Services (DDS) hosted second dose vaccine clinic for DDS and state office employees; Director and staff participated in the CSAVR Spring Conference.

April 27 – Director and staff participated the RSA quarterly call.

April 28 – Director participated in the Able Tech Advisory Council meeting.

April 29 – Director and staff participated in the ASPIRE meeting.

April 30 – Director and staff participated in the Governor’s Council on Workforce and Economic Development meeting.

May 4 – Director and staff participated in the VR/SBVI Performance meeting; Director participated in the OCCY personnel committee meeting.

May 5 – State Employee Recognition Day.

May 6 - Director and staff participated in the ASPIRE meeting.

May 7 – Director participated in the Human Services Cabinet meeting.

May 10 – Commission for Rehabilitation Services Meeting; DRS Executive Team Meeting.

May 11 – Director and Stephanie Roe participated in the ASPIRE Steering Committee Meeting; Director and staff participated The Happiness Project meeting; Director participated in the OCCY Personnel Committee Meeting.

May 18 – Director and staff participated in DRS appropriations for budget work program meetings.

May 19 – Director attended the Oklahoma School for the Deaf graduation.

May 20 – Director attended the Oklahoma School for the Blind graduation.

Recognition

Congratulations to Rita Echelle, Superintendent, Oklahoma School for the Blind, for being selected as the Oklahoma Association of School Administration (OASA) District 10 Superintendent of the Year.

*Respectfully submitted by
Melinda Freundt, Executive Director*

VR Division Administrator Report - Mark Kinnison

- Applications are up recently which is a great sign in terms of COVID-19 slowing down.
- Wages are up.
- We have continued to release clients off the wait list and have cut deep into Priority Group 2.
- Many Business Services trainings and outreach to employers are occurring.
- We have multiple vacancies for counselor positions.
- Transition Services are going strong with many summer activities planned.
- Training is scheduled for VR counselors and DDS case managers.
- Plans are still in the works for our Shepherd Mall offices and Tulsa offices to relocate.
- The DA recently participated in certification processes for western Oklahoma Workforce Partner sites.
- We are starting to prepare for our 107 review from RSA.

- Staff are starting to ask questions about the recent change in the classification system for employees.
- Our staff attended the recent OKTVR meeting and plans are being made to enhance partnerships with our Tribal VR program partners.
- Meetings continue with management on a regular basis regarding many work issues.
- Many staff are being recognized for their longevity.

Respectfully submitted by
 Mark Kinnison, M.Ed., CRC, LPC-S
 VR Administrator for ORS.

SBVI Division Administrator Report – Tracy Brigham

Field Services:

The field staff continues to stagger coverage in the office and in the field. Counselors, teachers, AT Specialists and O&M Specialists are seeing clients in the field as much as possible, and if clients aren't comfortable due to the pandemic, they are using alternate means to work with them such as Zoom, Skype, telephone and email. Safety is always emphasized and practiced in offices and in the field and will continue. Staff are also using the phone, mail and email to send out marketing and outreach information to referral sources who have not quite opened back up all the way yet.

Some of the ways services are being provided are as follows:

The Adjustment to Disability virtual group continues in Tulsa on Zoom for clients. Clients can get answers to questions about services ranging in topics from employment, personal hygiene and travel.

A Service Development Committee was created in Unit 64(Tulsa). This is a staff focused effort to call clients to let them know of all the services available including offering the virtual services.

In-service presentations are being conducted by Zoom in some instances. In a presentation for Moore Public Library instructional staff, along with staff from OLBPH, presented DRS services, sighted guide and some basic Rehabilitation Teaching.

Blooming from Blindness zoom meeting continues for clients and they also have guest speakers and topics ranging from assistive technology, employment, braille, etc...

Some examples of in-person outreach attended: Veterans Upward Bound; Technology Centers; Colleges and Universities; physician's offices; churches; local places for possibly client employment to begin getting face-to-face contact again with our referral sources and build the relationships back that were lessened over the past year.

Unit 64 has also created a Marketing Committee to locate local events to market SBVI/DRS. In just a few events there have been an increase in applications to the offices.

Rehabilitation Teacher meetings continue on a bi-monthly basis. Topics potentially covered are low vision, magnification, lighting, contrast, as well as guest speaker presentations, to keep our staff relevant.

Julie Bailey and Teresa McDermott have been attending a monthly Older Blind Project Managers group meeting with the OIB-TAC (Older Individuals Who Are Blind Training and Technical Assistance Center) in which representatives from all states meet by Zoom to discuss issues, resources and trends pertinent to provision of services to the older blind population. This last year has been especially difficult for most of them because they have been confined to their homes with little interaction due to being vulnerable to the virus. A topic that has been discussed during many of these Zoom meetings is how to provide remote services to these individuals. We are proud to report that out of this need has grown a new initiative called Time to Be Bold. This is a public service announcement with an accompanying website of www.timetobebold.org. The campaign, which launches on April 5, 2021, will include TV commercials/PSAs, radio spots, digital media and a toolkit of marketing materials for rehab professionals to use. The website will feature a link to a page on the www.OIB-TAC.org site to find services in each state. We have provided information on OB staff contacts in Oklahoma to be included on the website and hopefully this will get the word out about OB services and generate a lot of referrals for our teachers.

SBVI staff are excited to be able to have our Transition VIBE program for transition youth this summer. This is a program that we have been hosting on the campus of OSB for several years and unfortunately we were not able to have it last year due to COVID-19. The program is 2 separate weeks, one in June and the second in July, which will cover independent living skills, teambuilding exercises, mock interviews, technology usage and employment readiness training. The program is in the planning stages but will utilize several SBVI staff members, OSB staff and some of our PreETS specialists to focus heavily on preparation for employment. The target group will be blind

and visually impaired youth ages 16-21. Week one will be held June 21-25 and week two will be July 26-30. You will be hearing more about this exciting program in the months to come.

SBVI is happy to report several new hires in the field. We truly do believe in hiring our own whenever possible. SBVI 90 at Shepherd Mall has a new rehabilitation teacher, Trey Lewis. Trey is a client of SBVI. Amy Maples is our new transition counselor in Tulsa. Amy has been working for SBVI as a rehab technician since April of 2019 and she found that she loved working with the transition students, so we are happy to have her in that position. We have new rehabilitation technicians starting in Idabel and Tulsa as well. Stashia “Renee” Purcell is the new tech in Idabel who joined our team on 3/29/2021 and Jacqueline Nichols started her position at SBVI 91 in Tulsa on April 5th. We have a few more positions to be filled in the works, and we are very grateful to be able to fill these positions.

Our staff have assisted individuals with blindness or severe vision impairment in 24 successful employment closures with an average wage of \$17.13 since January 1, 2021! This is progress, especially in a pandemic! It’s important to recognize meaningful employment with good wages and not just “a job”.

Business Services:

The Business Services Unit has been as busy as ever! The following are their activities since last report in December.

Business Advisory Council; Western BAC; Southcentral BAC; Central BAC; Partner Trainings; Eastern Workforce Windmills training on reasonable accommodations; Project Search presentation for Tribal Partners; Client trainings(Aira, Dress for Success); SBVI male grooming; Career Connections South Central; Counselor Trainings(Aira, TAP); Imagine Academy; Galt training; SBVI Unit Meeting; South Central Career One Stop Overview; United Health Group planning meetings for employment; Mercy Hospitals Independence through Meaningful Work Committee; Paycom partnership; SSM Health; Disability Awareness and thinking bubble for mock interview with employers; Job Readiness Training with Spanish translation for 4 days; St. Francis Project Search; ORC Quarterly Meeting; JP Morgan Chase Self Employment Project; Defining Success Project State Sub-Committee; NET Conference; TAP training for BSP team; Business partner connections—State Election Board, Amazon, United Health, Defining Success, Computer Lending Program, Workforce Tulsa Accessible Employment Advisory Committee, ENERCON Company, NET Region VI Committee; Mercy Hospital Disability Resources Council, Manufacturing Apprenticeship

OLBPH

To date for FY2021:

- Audiobook circulation 88,349

The AIM Center

- Schools served 709
- Students served birth-3 years 234
- Students served preK-12 938

Pepper Watson, AIM Center director, has been serving on a national committee through the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Pepper just completed a 3 year appointment as Chair of this very important committee.

The purpose of the Educational Products Advisory Committee(EPAC) is to advise APH in establishing priorities, standards and policies regarding products; review research and development priorities, suggest additional areas of interest and advise APH staff on the prioritization of needs and projects; review products under development and to consider approval of finished products for purchase with Federal Quota funds; recommend parents, caregivers, students, clients and professionals in the field service as subjects for research or field-test purposes, as project consultants, and/or as committee members.

We appreciate Pepper's willingness to serve and work on this committee as Oklahoma professional representation on national committees and in national circles is imperative in Oklahoma's population being represented and recognized accurately.

In the studio and with Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR), Jill Streck has provided leadership and tenacity, along with her team, in progressing both operations during the pandemic. This has taken research and procurement of air purifiers for the, now two, telephone recording rooms which accommodates pairs of volunteer readers. Previous to this Scott See did some engineering to link the two rooms via cable for tandem recording sessions much like are present in the studio booths. Jill's continuous efforts through dialogue with volunteers and making conditions as safe as possible has resulted in the return of four very loyal volunteer readers despite Covid-19. Also, Heather Bateman led the effort for a now more user friendly fillable OTR patron introduction letter. This not only simplifies administration on our end but is also provides for easy to follow instructions for patrons new to this service.

The Division Administrator has had one initial meeting with an architect in regard to the build out that will begin at the library. This build out will be for offices, a training apartment and an assistive technology training lab to accommodate the unit move from Shepherd Center, hopefully by fall of this year. This consolidation move is in keeping with the Governor's direction of reducing costs in regard to space.

Business Enterprise Program

Statewide inventory of all equipment is being conducted with an independent contractor. Tannica Binder and Charles Pride have been busy escorting the contracted crew to all locations statewide. Hopefully this will be completed prior to May.

Assessments have begun on additional clients interested in entering the BEP as their career.

In the process of hiring into the Business Manager and the Vending Operations Manager positions.

We have just finished the process for the bid review, selection and contracting for statewide maintenance. This will hopefully be a positive step toward the Licensed Vendors businesses having reduced time waiting on repairs.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tracy Brigham, MBS, LPC, SBVI Division Administrator.

May 20, 2021

Field Coordinator Report – Teresa McDermott

Service Activity 10/1/2020 to 4/30/2021

Status	VR	SBVI	Total
Total Individuals with an Open Case	9,761	1,079	10,837
Individuals Determine Eligible	1,557	175	1,732
Released from Waiting List	1,677	176	1,853
IPE Developed	1,047	149	1,196
Closed Employed	499	74	573

Current Case Status as of 5/11/2021

Status	VR	SBVI	Total
Applicants Pending Eligibility Determination	404	28	432
Applicants participating in Trial Work Experiences to determine Eligibility	38	2	40
Individuals determine Eligible & currently on Waiting list	825	47	872
Eligible Participants pending IPE Development	712	56	768
Active Participants with an IPE	5,541	710	6,251
Participants Employed, pending Successful Case Closure	176	13	189
Total	7,696	856	8,552

Priority Group Assignment – Active Cases as of 5/11/2021

Active Cases	VR	SBVI	Total
Priority Group 1	3,077	542	3,619
Priority Group 2	3,794	246	4,040
Priority Group 3	471	40	511
Total	7,342	828	8,170

Delayed – Waiting List as of 5/11/2021

Waiting List per Priority Group	VR	SBVI	Total
Priority Group 1	20	4	24
Priority Group 2	605	32	637
Priority Group 3	200	11	211
Total	825	47	872

Transition vs. Adult Participants as of 5/11/2021

Case Status	VR Transition	VR Adults	VR Total	SBVI Transition	SBVI Adults	SBVI Total	Total
Delayed	232	502	825	9	38	47	872
Eligible	220	492	712	12	44	56	768
Service	2,830	2,711	5,541	225	485	710	6,251
Employed	54	122	176	2	11	13	189
Total	3,427	3,827	7,254	248	578	826	8,080

Active Cases – Age Group Breakdown

Age	15 to 16	16 to 21	22-24	25-44	45-54	55-59	60+	Total Cases	Total % Division
VR	51	3,686	940	1,642	662	333	406	7,720	90%
SBVI	3	218	80	206	133	77	141	858	10%
Total	54	3,904	1,020	1,848	795	410	574	8,578	100%

DRS Project Coordinator Report – Stephanie Roe

MOU/IFA

Reviews and agreement for the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreements have been completed for the Western Workforce Board with the expectation of the remaining workforce boards requesting DRS review and funding agreements in the coming months for either co-location or direct linkage. We co-locate a rotation of VR and SBVI staff in the Enid Comprehensive center on a part-time basis and have office space in the Ponca City center. Of course, the pandemic limited the amount of time our staff were physically in American Job Centers over the last year, but we have maintained our agreements for funding shared space and intend to in the future.

Star Accessibility Course Catalog Progress and Recommendations:

Bi-weekly calls with local workforce development boards have been occurring for the past month to collect feedback and provide resources for the crosswalk between Center Certification and the Star Accessibility framework for Implementation of the Phase I assessment due by September. The Office of Workforce Development organized these opportunities for feedback so the Access for All task force could utilize it in the development of the Course Catalog

We are in the process of creating training modules from these resources and discussed topics/areas of high interest to prioritize in the development process. The catalog is still in draft form and initial feedback prioritized Customer Service and disability etiquette as a need. Our goal is to provide content that will be short and user-friendly.

DRS has been asked to participate as a member of the Western Center Certification and Star Accessibility Assessment team in Western Oklahoma. Special thank you to Mark Kinnison and members of his VR team who are participating in those assessment and review teams.

System Oversight Sub-Committee

The subcommittee is focused on reviewing regional plans for the Western, Southern and Central Workforce Boards and providing comments and recommendations for approval. DRS board and Business Services representatives were engaged in the regional planning processes for all three areas and reflect DRS as a core partnership in meeting the strategic goals included in the plans.

Special Thank you to Mark Kinnison and members of his VR team who are participating as a review team in the Western Workforce Board's center certification and star accessibility initial assessment for all centers in the Western area.

Data Collection Tool Submitted for online Cross training course

The data collection tool for online cross-training course regarding workforce partner programs was submitted mid-May. DRS VR and SBVI information was submitted with general information related to eligibility, cost of services and contact information for DRS. This online course will be available to frontline staff in Oklahoma American Job centers to improve their ability to refer job-seekers to partner programs.

Recent Events- The Road to Self-Sufficiency: Navigating the Benefits Cliffs

Recent Oklahoma Workforce Association Partners Training in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Moving individuals and families towards financial self-sufficiency is a prime goal of Oklahoma's workforce efforts. Workers, however, face many barriers on this journey. This virtual training provided participants with new perspectives, policy options and practical tools to help clients make informed career choices. Training participants explored the impact of public benefits on career mobility, and how 'benefit cliffs' may be addressed through program design and counseling strategies. This conference delivered hands-on training in using the Oklahoma CLIFF Dashboard, a new customized tool that helps individuals understand how their career progression and public benefits interact to support financial stability. Over 400 attendees participated in this event.

Upcoming Events

National Association of Workforce Boards will convene both in person and virtually June 24-26th. For more information visit: [NAWB Forum 2021](#)

Save the Date

Fall Partner's Workforce Conference- Nov 3-5 in Oklahoma City

ORC Workforce Initiatives Report

Submitted by OKDRS- Project Coordinator, Stephanie Roe

Transition Report – Renee Sansom

February 2021

Transition Coordinator (TC) attended many zoom meetings regarding supervisory trainings, Capacity Building Institute (CBI) discussion and preparation, Pre-ETS team meetings with OU Pre-ETS and Judi Goldston, Transition Council, Moore School team meetings, State Workforce Youth Programs Committee, SpEd CTE, VR meetings, Career Pathways Community of Practice meetings, IDD seminars, WINTAC Pre-ETS meetings, RTI meetings, Blindness Pre-ETS Community of Practice (CoP) meetings, OSU Tele Edge Echo Meetings, Coalition of Advocates for Behavioral Health, WIOA Youth / DRS Transition Program Participant Discussion with Workforce Youth, Youth and Family Perspectives, the Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment, OSB quarterly meeting, EOTC Discussion, Addressing Emotional Health, Tulsa Honor Academy presentation, Counselor / Tech Check-in meetings, Cultivate sessions, Joining Forces collaboration, Brainstorming with DRS transition staff for summer programs, Discussion of Spanish Sessions for OTI, VIBE preparation meetings, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Transition Coalition Workshop, Deaf-Blind Charting the Life Course Tools, Helen Keller National Center and National Deaf-Blind Count for the state of Oklahoma, Youth Apprenticeship Partners meeting, multiple NACT trainings and Project SEARCH team meetings.

TC presented to CBI, Pre-ETS, Workforce Youth Committee, Youth Readiness Apprenticeship grant, Project SEARCH Tulsa, Autism Conference, Moore Schools, and Community of Practice meetings.

TC began to work with new GALT employee, Chris Compton in transition.

TC worked with Tannica Binder and OSB on planning transition services for the BEP with OSB.

TC and Kim Lohr worked on tracking students for Pre-ETS and other services in AWARE for the 911 data report.

Kim Lohr continues to keep the list of counselors and schools up to date for every quarter.

Jim Kettler continues to keep the list of SWS contracts updated for the contract season.

TC continues to be involved with the Transition Committee through CSAVR and NCSAB.

March 2021

Transition Coordinator (TC) attended many zoom meetings regarding supervisory trainings, quarterly Tuesday trainings, Webinar Wednesdays with

Creek Nation, Humanity's search for meaning discussion, Blindness Pre-ETS Community of Practice (CoP) meetings, Community of practice for Supporting Families - Innovation Roundtable Call, OSU Tele Edge Echo Meetings, Project SEARCH Muskogee Discussion, Meeting with ESS about OSB / WAT, Transition Council, Ready to Work Information Meeting, RTI meetings, Coalition of Advocates for Behavioral Health, Connecting Project SEARCH with Workforce Tulsa - discussion, Discussion about Youth Leadership Council Oklahoma, COWIB Business Services meetings, Central Tech Discussion regarding gap in services / SE and ESS, OK AHEAD Conference, OFN and Joining Forces Conference, Central Oklahoma Association for Teachers Coalition (COATC) to provide more information regarding pre-ETS, attended PWDAD 2021 virtually, OU child psychiatry, Simmersion website discussion, Oklahoma Parent Center Round Table discussion, GICH Employment/Education/Training Subcommittee, Work Based Learning discussions, Work with Dana Tallon regarding website information, RSA - Oklahoma State Advisory Committee, Live Learn Lead discussion, summer program check-ins with staff, and Project SEARCH team meetings.

TC presented to Insight / Oklahoma Charter Virtual Academy, Riverhawks Scholar Program, Transition Meeting with the Autism Foundation, OSU IDD program for Autism, Pre-ETS Presentation, Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI) in Spanish 3 days.

TC began work with Finance, FC's, DA's and Process Improvement regarding Pre-ETS budget and how to improve spending for the future. A PAR is being developed and training will roll out from TC and Jonathon Cook

TC began work with FY22 contracts including WAT and many others

TC began work with Carl Perkins and Mike Shelton with Metro-Tech regarding a new program for students with disabilities in OKC

TC began work with Lori Chesnut at OSDE regarding signatures and the MOU

TC began work with COWIB regarding youth summer program partnerships such as the student engagement program.

TC began work with the Oklahoma Parent Center regarding family engagement

TC began work with Fatos Floyd with Business Services in DRS regarding business engagement

TC and Kim Lohr worked on tracking students for Pre-ETS and other services in AWARE for the 911 data report.

Chris Compton sat in on all Project SEARCH interviews for the month of March

Kim Lohr continues to keep the list of counselors and schools up to date for every quarter.

TC continues to be involved with the Transition Committee through CSAVR and NCSAB.

April 2021

Transition Coordinator (TC) attended many zoom meetings regarding supervisory trainings, OK CoP for Supporting Families Re-Group and Re-Launch, CoP for Supporting Families - Innovation Roundtable Call, State Workforce Youth Programs Committee meeting, Project SEARCH team meetings, Coalition of Advocates for Behavioral Health, OTC meetings, SELN, RTI meetings, Special Education, Career and Technical Education, and Vocation Rehabilitation Network call, NTACTION SpEd-CTE-VR Network call, Leading the Way or Falling Behind, Discussion regarding David DeNotaris and Pre-ETS info, joining forces conference planning, Mucogee Nation Webinar, OFCCP Webinar with Disability: IN, Office of Workforce Development discussion and apprenticeships, Topic: Strengthening the Oklahoma Workforce by Addressing Health-Related Social Needs, Students with Disabilities Service Delivery Solutions NTACTION Peer Network Meeting, CSAVR Leadership meeting, Humanity's search for meaning discussion, Performance review team meeting, DHHTC panel discussion for May 6th, Capacity Building Institute Leader meeting, Central Tech Center Board meeting, Oklahoma Tribal VR meetings with Project SEARCH and New Mexico, Manufacturing Apprenticeship Discussion/DRS - NE Oklahoma, CSAVR Conference, OCCY Strengthening Custody & Transition Services Advisory Team, OU Pre-ETS evaluation discussion with PI and OU, Special Education Stakeholder meeting, Discussion with Jody in Communications regarding summer programs and advertising, MOU discussion with Melinda, Todd and Lori, Pre-ETS team meeting with Missouri and Oklahoma, NTACTION - Students and Youth with Complex Support Needs Community of Practice, summer program check-ins with staff, Unpacking Assumptions: Equitable Approaches to Re-Engaging Students and Youth in Education and VR Services, and Tribal VR Meeting.

TC presented to Insight / Oklahoma Charter Virtual Academy, counselor / tech check-in meeting, and Project SEARCH meeting with National and Tribal VR.

TC continued to work with Finance, FC's, DA's and Process Improvement regarding Pre-ETS budget and how to improve spending for the future. A PAR is being developed and training will roll out from TC and Jonathon Cook.

TC began to review policy in transition

TC continued work with FY22 contracts including WAT and many others

TC continued work with Carl Perkins and Mike Shelton with Metro-Tech regarding a new program for students with disabilities in OKC

TC continued work with Lori Chesnut at OSDE regarding signatures and the MOU

TC continued work with COWIB regarding youth summer program partnerships such as the student engagement program.

TC continued work with the Oklahoma Parent Center regarding family engagement

TC continued work with Fatos Floyd with Business Services in DRS regarding business engagement

TC and Kim Lohr worked on tracking students for Pre-ETS and other services in AWARE for the 911 data report.

Chris Compton sat in on all Project SEARCH interviews for the month of April

TC and Kim Lohr worked on tracking students for Pre-ETS and other services in AWARE for the 911 data report.

Kim Lohr continues to keep the list of counselors and schools up to date for every quarter.

TC continues to be involved with the Transition Committee through CSAVR and NCSAB.

May 2021

Transition Coordinator (TC) attended many zoom meetings regarding supervisory trainings, Commissioner Schultz to moderate 'best practices' virtual showcase with Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation, OSB quarterly meeting, Youth Apprenticeship discussion with Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, Work Based Learning Summit, Discussion of ACE Academy with David DeNotaris Muscogee Nation webinar, CASE Fall Conference, Person driven planning state to state discussion, CoP for Supporting Families - Innovation Roundtable Call, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coalition (DHHTC) core meeting, Business Services BAC meeting, CSAVR Conference, Oklahoma Statewide Caregiver Conference, team meetings with Epic, Governor's Council Meeting, Joining Forces planning meeting, Coalition of Advocates for Behavioral Health, OTC, CBI follow-up, Project SERACH partner meetings, Understanding Difficult Behaviors and Working With Youth Who Display Them, EOTC discussion, Gap in services discussion with ESS, Pre-ETS chat, Tribal partner meeting for Project SEARCH,

OMA/DRS Youth Apprenticeship Planning, NCSAB conference, Capacity Building Institute (CBI), and Q&A for National Apprenticeship.

TC presented to OU Masters class for Sp. Ed., Youth apprenticeship grant team, OK special population session, CTE presentation to all Tech Centers, FEAT training presentation, Pre-ETS blindness CoP, Riverhawks scholar Program, and Project SEARCH meeting with National.

TC and Kim Lohr worked on tracking students for Pre-ETS and other services in AWARE for the 911 data report.

Kim Lohr continues to keep the list of counselors and schools up to date for every quarter.

TC continues to be involved with the Transition Committee through CSAVR and NCSAB.

UPDATES

TC and Jim Kettler continues to receive signed SWS and WAT contracts. To date, we have 234 SWS contracts and 10 WAT contracts signed and completed for Fall 2021. We have several schools and vendors waiting on board meetings to get signatures. Over 300 SWS contracts were sent out this year and that is an increase from last year. Also, we sent out 16 WAT contracts to be signed, which is 3 more than last year!

TC continues calls and zoom meetings with St. Anthony's about becoming a new Project Search site. Metro-Tech will be back in the fall of 2021, but the location or host business is not yet confirmed.

TC, Fatos Floyd, National Project SEARCH and Judi Goldston have met with Tribal VR partners to continue the discussion about starting a tribal Project SEARCH. Tulsa Tech WILL begin a new Project SEARCH site in January 2022 in Tulsa. Exciting times.

TC continues to work with Communications Department, Dana Tallon regarding the Transition website and Brett Jones with Brochures and multiple flyers for trainings and summer camps. There is a Media Release that will come soon from Jody Harlan for STEM, BEST and VIBE! Be on the lookout for those!

Pre-ETS contract is doing great. We have eleven specialists that continue to work in the schools.

They continue to work with approximately 105 schools in the state. One continues to work in the Oklahoma City Public School System (all high schools). Another continues to work the "west" part of the state currently including

Tuttle, Newcastle, Blanchard, and other rural schools. The third continues to focus on Moore/Norman and down through Little Axe, Purcell, and other surrounding schools in that area. The fourth one continues to work on the east side of OKC in Luther, Jones, Chandler, etc. The fifth is working in the Muskogee area including OSB. The sixth and another continue to work the Tulsa and surrounding areas. The eighth continues to work with our online virtual academies and online charter schools and our ninth is doing work in the Enid and surrounding areas. Our tenth continues to work with the Ada, Purcell, Lexington, and surrounding areas. Finally, the eleventh one, hired for Lawton. The new contract will be looking at hiring up to 16, so 5 new positions. Mostly in the four far corners of the state. We are looking to hire in the North West and North East part of OK! TC, and Judi Goldston present at any event we can get to regarding DRS and the partnership with OU and Pre-ETS by multiple meetings with public schools and other agencies. Working with the workforce centers as well is one of our many goals. In this Pre-Ets contract, we have included peer mentoring as part of the contract along with the five required fields of the WIOA. Pre-ETS are working with DRS counselors and Chris around the state to conduct the BEST summer camps around the state. We have 13 locations and we are pumped. Those locations include Guymon/Goodwell (in the panhandle), Weatherford, Lawton, Pauls Valley, Norman, Yukon/Mustang, OKC/Edmond, Stillwater, Tulsa, Owasso, Muskogee, and Muldrow.

STEM camp will be held virtually this summer, thanks to Tech-Now, Rick, and Sherri DeRennaux. We plan on doing the same as last summer. This will allow students to be anywhere other than the locations we would have had in person. Very exciting times. The Pre-ETS specialists will continue to work with the students on pre-employment training information after hours. We are getting registrations every day. Very exciting. We plan on having STEM in person, on campus at OSD and OSB in the Fall of 2021.

We will be having Summer Transition Job Clubs BEST Summer Camps around the state utilizing our job vendors (specifically at this time, we have contracts with Dale Rogers, Job Connections, and Achieve With Us Staffing) for assessment and Vocational Preparation / Job Club and Pre-ETS personnel across the state. 1 week for 15-20 students in at 13 different locations. The counselors and techs in these locations have been instrumental in outreach. Chris has been the main contact for this program. We are excited.

Sky's The Limit Communications, A training and communications company specializing in motivational resiliency, diversity and leadership presentations nationally, David DeNotaris and Ace Academy are working with students (juniors and seniors) from the School for the Blind to promote independence.

During the ACE Advocacy Academy Self-Advocacy Nuts and Bolts, participants will grow in confidence, independence and skill as they practice essential elements of self-advocacy. They will continue through the Fall of 2021 and next Spring 2022 for OSB students. TC is in conversation with David regarding opportunities for the School for the Deaf as well.

DRS added the share fairs to the transition page of the website. This will allow parents, teachers, administration, students, etc. to watch and learn about DRS and other resources.

Visually Impaired and Blind Empowerment (VIBE) will be in person this summer. There will be 2 weeks of assessment and career / higher education exploration. It is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce, and independent living to the best of their ability. OU / Pre-ETS is partnering to provide iPads, stylus pens, and keyboards for the students during the week.

The *Oklahoma Parent Center (OPC)* and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) have partnered and continue to provide job exploration and work-based learning trainings as well as workplace readiness and post-secondary counseling trainings. We are looking to expand this and provide more frequently to more people. It was shared through the council from Carolina. The training is being provided by the NCDDET and the Oklahoma Parents Center (OPC) at no charge to participants.

TC is working with Finance, Jonathon Cook, and Rod VanStavern to develop a personnel activity report (PAR) for transition to capture accurate data for the RSA 17 to track transition monies and spending. Training will be coming out soon for counselors, techs, vocational evaluators, etc.

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report

Many of you who make up the membership of the ORC are already quite familiar with the Client Assistance Program (CAP), but I would imagine an equal number are not. For those who are already familiar, bear with me, but for those who find yet another acronym mind-boggling, this may help.

The Client Assistance Program, unfortunately, does not offer any financial assistance to people with disabilities who are running behind on their bills. I do get occasional calls from hopeful people that CAP may be able to help them meet their very real financial needs. Sorry.

What CAP is, however, is an advocacy program specifically for clients of the Vocational Rehabilitation program. CAP is one of several Protection and

Advocacy programs recognized by the federal government to meet the needs of specific disability groups. Other examples are Protection and Advocacy for Social Security Beneficiaries and Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness.

All Protection and Advocacy organizations (P&A's) in Oklahoma are located within the Disability Law Center with the lone exception of CAP which is located within the Office of Disability Concerns. (The Disability Law Center is a private, non-profit agency with offices in both Tulsa and Oklahoma City.)

Authorization for CAP came in the 1984 re-authorization of the Rehabilitation Act. In fact, all of the P&A's have come into existence through the various re-authorizations of the Rehabilitation Act. We are all related to one another, and we are all related to Vocational Rehabilitation which is a part of that same federal legislation.

Even though CAP was specifically established to advocate for clients of the Vocational Rehabilitation program, that does not prevent other P&A's from serving VR clients if those clients also fall under one of their categories. However, by far and wide the CAP's serve the majority of VR clients.

There's a reason for that, and I'll explain more in my next report to the ORC. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss one of my favorite subjects.

After giving you a little background in the next couple meetings, I will discuss more detail of the kinds of questions and concerns which I receive. You may be interested in learning how CAP in Oklahoma compares with CAP in Texas and other states.

Submitted by: William Ginn
Oklahoma Client Assistance Program

ORC Program Manager Report

Since the last ORC Quarterly Meeting, the ORC PM attended the DRS Policy Public Comment Hearing that took place on February 8, 2021, and read the ORC support letter on behalf of the Council.

The PM participated in the DRS Commission meetings on February 8, March 8, and April 12.

The ORC PM participated in the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) National Meeting on February 10. The NCSRC decided to host a bi-monthly Zoom Meeting instead of the Spring Conference. They hope to return to an in-person conference this fall.

The PM participated in DRS Job Readiness week on February 22-25 and assisted with the mock interviews.

PM attended the Oklahoma Transition Council Zoom meetings on February 11, March 11 and April 8. In addition, the 2021 Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI) planning has begun, and the PM will serve on the OTI Speaker Committee.

The PM coordinated and participated in the ORC Committee Meeting on March 18 and 25.

The PM participated on behalf of the Council in the Transition Oklahoma State Advisory Committee hosted by the Oklahoma Parent Center on March 24.

The PM attended the ASPIRE Grant kick-off meeting on March 30 on behalf of the Employment Committee. This grant is part of the IPS model that the Committee supports.

The PM attended the Tulsa Business Advisory Council Zoom Meeting on April 8.

The PM attended the CSAVR Spring Conference on April 13, 14 and 20.

The PM attended the ABLE Tech Advisory Council Meeting on April 28.

Other Business

DRS COVID-19 Client Survey Results – Tiffany Davis

ORC Member Update

ORC New Introductions

New Business

Reminder

The next ORC Quarterly Meeting will be on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 9:30 am

Adjourn