

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The meeting took place on Thursday, May 20, 2021, via Zoom Virtual Meeting.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Shelley Gladden, Council Vice-Chair, at 9:33 am. Roll was called; a quorum was established.

- a) Members Present: Kelli Bates, Amanda Burnside, Lori Chesnut, Shelley Gladden, Jerod Gleason, William Ginn, Vicky Golightly, Sharon Harrison, Angela Jaworski, Jeff Newton, Shelly Rentz, Steve Shepelwich, and Amy Synar.
- b) Members Absent: Matthew Barnes, Melinda Freundt, Jen Randle, Donna Sanders, and Tim Yeahquo
- c) Others Present: Tina Calloway, Barret Waltz, Renee Sansom, Stephanie Roe, Chris Kennedy, Fatos Floyd, Tracy Brigham, Janice Morris, Tonya Garman, Tiffany Davis, Teresa McDermott.
- 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 February 18, 2021 meeting minutes: Kelly Bates made a motion to approve the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes as presented in the ORC Meeting Packet starting on page 2 - 6. Sharon Harrison seconded the motion. The February minutes are available on [ORC's website](https://orc.okstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FINAL-Minutes-February-2021-ORC-Quarterly-Meeting.pdf) <https://orc.okstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FINAL-Minutes-February-2021-ORC-Quarterly-Meeting.pdf>
- Council Member's Minutes Approval Vote:
 - ✓ Kelli Bates - Yes
 - ✓ Amanda Burnside - Yes
 - ✓ Lori Chesnut - Yes
 - ✓ Shelley Gladden - Yes
 - ✓ William Ginn - Yes

- ✓ Vicky Golightly - Yes
- ✓ Sharon Harrison – Yes
- ✓ Jeff Newton – Yes
- ✓ Shelly Rentz - Yes
- ✓ Steve Shepelwich – Yes
- ✓ Amy Synar - Yes

The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

ORC Committee Reports

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Carolina Colclasure for Tim Yeahquo

The Committee met on Thursday, March 18, 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 [May 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, March 25, 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 [May 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, March 18, 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 [May 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, March 25, 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 [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](https://orc.okstate.edu/meeting-schedules-and-minutes/) beginning on page 8.

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes – Carolina Colclasure for Jen Randle

The Committee met on Thursday, March 18, 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 [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 9.

Department of Rehabilitation Reports

Director Report – Stephanie Roe for Melinda Freundt

The Director report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found on ORC's website under [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 10.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division Administrator – Chris Kennedy for Mark Kinnison

The VR Division Administrator (DA) report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found on ORC's Website under [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 13.

Chris added that he ran a report and compared March 2021 to March 2020 and VR applications are up 44%, which is an excellent indicator that COVID is slowing down.

Also, the release of DRS clients on the waiting list changed from monthly to every two weeks, which has allowed the release of more clients from Priority Group II.

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

The SBVI report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 14.

VR Field Coordinator (FC) Report – Teresa McDermott

The VR/SBVI Data report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 19.

Teresa added an update to the report as of May 20 that included:

- Priority Group I: 79
- Priority Group II: 696
- Priority Group III: 215
- Total: 990

Also, DRS released 257 clients from the waiting list on May 20, which takes them through the clients who applied on January 29, 2021.

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 [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 21.

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 [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 22.

Renee added to her report that the number of School Work Study (SWS) contracts increased from 234 to 249 this year.

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report – William Ginn

The CAP report was presented and reviewed by the Council and can be found in its entirety on ORC's website under [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 29.

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 [May Quarterly Meeting Packet](#) beginning on page 30.

Other Business

DRS COVID-19 Client Survey Results

Tiffany Davis, the DRS Program Standards Supervisor, shared with the Council the results of the DRS COVID-19 Client Survey. The PowerPoint can be found on [ORC's Meeting Schedules and Minutes page](#).

Some of the highlights of the presentation included:

- The target populations of the survey had:
 - Open adult cases with a signed Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE) as of September 29, 2020
 - Adult cases in delayed status as of September 29, 2020
 - Former clients whose cases were closed successfully between October 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020
- The survey was distributed via e-mail, mail (included a pre-paid postage envelope), and phone.

- The response rate was:
 - The closed case survey was sent to 829, and DRS received 90 responses. The response rate was 10.86%
 - The delayed status survey was sent to 1,030, and DRS received 119 responses. The response rate was 11.55%
 - The adult IPE survey was sent to 6,129, and DRS received 569 responses. The response rate was 9.28%
- Survey results:
 - 62.07% of respondents to the successfully closed case survey reported they still had the same job as when their case closed.
 - 25.93% of the clients that have the same job since COVID started reported their work hours have been reduced because of it.
 - 37.93% of respondents to the successfully closed case survey reported they do not have the same job as when their case closed.
 - Of those that lost or left their jobs, 55.17% reported it was due to COVID-19.
 - 43.75% of those clients who had lost or left their jobs had been able to find a new job at the time of the survey.
 - 22.58% of those clients who had lost or left their jobs reapplied for DRS services.
 - 85.19% of those with the same job as closure reported being happy with the job.
 - 71.43% of those who had found new jobs reported being happy with their employment.
 - Across all three surveys, the most frequently reported impact during COVID-19 has been having to limit contact with family and friends.
- In conclusion, DRS pointed out that even with everything going on and fears DRS clients have regarding working during COVID-19, the majority have not been dissuaded and are still pursuing employment or have a desire to keep their current jobs.

ORC Member Updates

Fatos Floyd

Fatos share with the Council that she will be retiring on August 1; she shared her contact information with all the participants.

The Business Services Program (BSP) started a new project that includes various trainings for DRS clients. The topics of the training included:

- Training for SBVI clients on dress for success and career connection

- Employment Training that included writing resumes, employee motivation, and mock interviews
- Working from home for SBVI clients
- Galt soft skills training

There was also a training for DRS Counselors that shared the mission and activities of the BSP. This training will be done twice a year to make sure all the DRS Counselors know about the BSP and support their efforts.

In June, the BSP will have a training on how to write a contract and how to do marketing for DRS Clients interested in Self-Employment.

The trainings will be available on BSP's website as a resource for clients and shared live on YouTube and Facebook.

The BSP will start a computer lending program for those clients that need one to start a job and can't afford it. The program will begin with ten computers; three of them have all the accessibility programs an SBVI client could use, and the others will have the basic programs. The computers will allow the clients to start the job while DRS purchases a computer for them.

The BSP website will have a new section that will post On the Job Training (OTJ) opportunities and job openings from BSP partners. Clients and Counselors will see the job descriptions and ask questions about the postings to the BSP staff.

The BSP had a vaccination clinic for clients for SBVI clients in Tulsa on April 30, and they had 68 clients attend. The second one will take place on May 28.

Amanda Burnside

The ASPIRE program has been meeting with the committee members to go over the Strategic Plan and their involvement.

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) has 14 teams across the State; they have helped over 1,000 people get a job in the last quarter.

The Next Gen program in Cleveland and Roger Counties will start in June; they will be working with community health centers for those who are just coming out of the jails and getting back into the workforce.

Vicky Golightly

The Oklahoma Council of the Blind has been working with the State Election Board on the electronic absentee ballot program.

They are also working with Microsoft consultants in relation to the accessibility on the Department of Health website for vaccines.

Sharon Harrison

Sharon's consulting firm has been working with the Manufacturing Association to create a manufacturing skills academy.

She is also working with the DRS BSP to design apprenticeships that will focus on individuals with disabilities.

Shelly Rentz

Shelly and Renee will be presenting during the next ORC Quarterly Meeting about the Career Exploration Program.

Central Tech's school year is coming to an end. Students are transitioning out of the training programs and graduating from high school. It is an exciting time for the seniors; they are excited to get to work.

Amy Synar

The Oklahoma Parent Center has been busy with all of the families that have reached out to get help during this challenging year. The focus has been providing trainings that are posted on the website to reach more families.

Kelli Bates

There has been a shortage of availability in employees across the nation, which is Oklahoma's case. As a reminder, Governor Stitt had turned to a new work incentive program. If you have clients you are working with on employment and have registered by May 15, if they return to work, there is a \$1,200 incentive they will get paid if they work six weeks. Galt has these positions open and available; we would be happy to help them through that.

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 benefits and avoid them. These tools will be available for the ORC to use and share with its partners.

Linda Jaco

ABLE Tech is partnering with the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma to purchase and maintain equipment for their use with the Youth Leadership Forum, Partners in Policymaking, and other opportunities.

Also, ABLE Tech will apply for one of the OK Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Sooner Success grants to put together a smart home studio apartment in the Stillwater office. The apartment will have smart home technology that will be used to show all the Assistive Technology (AT) available for the home.

ABLE Tech will have a funding workshop on 5/21/21. Shelley Gladden will be hosting the training, and Gretchen Cole-Lade will be the speaker.

Reminder

The August ORC Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.