

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

The Employment Committee met on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 1 pm, via Zoom.

Participants: Sharon Harrison, 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 College Business Department had a global online training that included an accessibility training that helped her understand a little more about the changes that need to be made.

Sharon will use that knowledge to make changes to her courses and will give ABLE Tech access - once completed - to review it and make changes as necessary. She hopes that the pilot program can begin in the upcoming fall semester.

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.

Business Advisory Council (BAC) Update

The DRS BAC is partnering with Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City and planning an Assistive Technology (AT) demonstration in October. ABLE Tech will assist with equipment.

Also, the DRS BAC is planning to start a mentoring program with Mercy Hospital. It will be a six-month mentoring program, especially for transition and young adults. The participants don't need to be in the healthcare field; it will be virtual and over the phone in order to include people outside of the Oklahoma City area.

The BAC plans to continue this mentoring program and will look for additional partners to grow it.

On-Demand Occupations Presentation – Sharon Harrison

As part of their Workforce Plan, each State must identify the critical industries and occupations that most workers will need every four years. These sectors or industries are then identified as Industry Ecosystems and are used to determine which areas they will give money to in order to create new jobs.

In Oklahoma, there are currently five industry ecosystems, including:

Aerospace and Defense

The most significant portion of Oklahoma's Aerospace industry includes Maintenance, Repair, and Operation (MRO). An example of this is the Government defense contracts in Tulsa to remanufacture and refurbish planes. These contracts require a particular skill set, and more workers are needed. In 2019 they employed 133,000 civilian workers.

The critical occupations within this field include:

- Machinist
- Mechanics
- Service technicians
- Supply chain workers
- Auditors
- Analysts

Agricultural Bioscience

The largest industry in the agriculture sector is crop production with 24,959 open jobs.

It also includes the Bioscience sector, and in it, we can find the Medical Diagnostic field that is expected to have significant growth in the next four years. It will include Pharmaceutical Companies, Beer and Ale Producers, and Medicine Manufacturing. Together they currently employ 167,000 Oklahomans.

The critical occupations within this field include:

- Laborers
- Freight
- Stock and material movers
- Heavy tractor-trailer drivers
- CDL drivers

- Office clerks,
- Operation Managers

Energy Sector

It has been for years one of the major industries in Oklahoma. It includes crude, petroleum, natural gas, support activities for mining, transmission and power structure construction.

In 2019 they employed 216,000 Oklahomans.

The critical occupations within this field include:

- Laborers
- Handlers
- Stock and material movers
- Tractor-trailer drivers
- Office clerks
- Operations Managers
- Mechanics and service technicians
- Analyst
- Auditors

Information and Financial Services

This field includes management companies and enterprises. They offer more flexibility of employment and remote work.

Commercial banking is included in this sector, and it employs 164,000. The critical occupations here include:

- Accountants
- Auditors
- Software Developers
- Financial Managers
- Operation Managers

Transportation and distribution

Because of its location, transportation is a major sector for Oklahoma. It includes general and specialized warehousing, storage, general freight, and trucking. The unique thing about Oklahoma is that it has all five modes of transportation air, rail, trucks, canals, and pipelines.

The critical occupations here include:

- Laborers
- Freight
- Stock and material movers
- Truck drivers
- Office clerks
- Operation managers
- Supply chain workers

Sharon will share this presentation with all DRS Counselors in a training scheduled for July 15 at 2:30 pm. The objective is to share the Critical occupations and the sectors with the Counselors to inform DRS clients about them and assist them if they want to choose one of these critical occupations.

The Committee will also use this information during the FFY22 Strategic Planning Meeting to create objectives and activities to promote these sectors and occupations.

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) Update

Amanda Burnside was not able to report during the June meeting.

Time and location for the next meeting

The next ORC Quarterly Meeting will be on Thursday, August 19, at 9:30 am.

The Strategic Planning Meeting will be on Thursday, September 9, at 9:30 am.