



**OKLAHOMA**  
**Rehabilitation Services**

# **Commission for Rehabilitation Services**

**Commissioners Theresa Flannery, Wes Hilliard  
and Jace Wolfe**

Regular Meeting  
and Video Conferencing

3535 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK

February 13, 2023

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma**  
**Commission for Rehabilitation Services**  
**February 13, 2023**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services  
3535 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK

Commission link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612085604>

Phone: 1-669-254-5252

Webinar ID: 161 208 5604

Jace Wolfe, Commission Chair  
Wes Hilliard, Commission Vice-Chair  
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility

- |    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Call to Order and Roll Call                   | Jace Wolfe<br>Chair                 |
| 2. | Statement of Compliance with Open Meeting Act | Carol Brown<br>Commission Assistant |

**PAGE NUMBERS**

**REPORTS**

- |    |  |   |          |
|----|--|---|----------|
| 3. | Presentation of Longevity Certificate  | Jace Wolfe<br>Chair                         |          |
| 4. | Presentation of Executive Director's Certificate   | Melinda Fruendt<br>Executive Director       |          |
| 5. | Executive Director's report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes Executive Director's meetings with staff, and state meetings. There is a reminder of the People with Disabilities Awareness Day on March 7, 2023. | Melinda Fruendt<br>Executive Director       | <b>2</b> |
| 6. | Priority Group Updates with possible Commission discussion. Report includes status of all Priority Groups I, II and III.   | Mark Kinnison<br>VR Director                |          |
| 7. | Financial report with possible Commission discussion of FY 2023 as of December 31, 2022.   | Kevin Statham<br>Chief Financial<br>Officer | <b>6</b> |

8.	Personnel Activity report with possible Commission discussion, as of December 31, 2022. The activity report has current FTE status.	Tom Patt Director Human Resource	<b>14</b>
9.	Legislative Liaison report with possible Commission discussion.	Jennifer Hardin Legislative Liaison	<b>22</b>
10.	DRS Success Story with possible Commission discussion.	Trudy Mitchell OSD Director of Student Life	<b>43</b>
11.	Vocational Rehabilitation Report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes production statistics and updates on Business Services Team, Business Advisory Council and meetings VR Director attended.	Mark Kinnison VR Director	<b>46</b>
12.	Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes updates on the ORC's Committees.	Carolina Colclasure Program Manager	<b>51</b>
13.	Statewide Independent Living Council report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes updates on SILC's activities and Board members.	Sidna Madden- Trimmell Executive Director	<b>54</b>

### **ACTION ITEMS**

14.	Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the December 12, 2022, Commission for Rehabilitation Services regular meeting minutes.	Jace Wolfe Chair	<b>57</b>
15.	Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the December 2022 donations to the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.	Kevin Treese OLBPH Program Manager	<b>63</b>
16.	Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the December 2022 and January 2023 donations to the Oklahoma School for the Blind.	Rita Echelle OSB Superintendent	<b>65</b>
17.	Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the December 2022 and January 2023 donations to the Oklahoma School for the Deaf.	Dr. Heather Laine OSD Superintendent	<b>68</b>

- |     |   |                     |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 18. | New Business (“Any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting” 25 O.S. § 311)                                | Jace Wolfe<br>Chair |
| 19. | Announcements<br>Next Meeting:<br><b>Monday, March 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.</b><br>3535 NW 58 <sup>th</sup> Street 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor<br>Oklahoma City, OK 73112      | Jace Wolfe<br>Chair |
| 20. | Public Comments. (Under Oklahoma Open Meeting Laws, the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services cannot respond to or discuss any matter not on today’s agenda.) | Public              |
| 21. | Adjourn   | Jace Wolfe<br>Chair |

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**  
**February 13, 2023**

**Executive**

December

- 13 – Oklahoma Digital Government Summit.
- 14 – Welcome at the CANAR Conference; OK IPSE Update Meeting.
- 15 – Fruendt’s Front; Accessible Educational Materials national cohort meeting.
- 16 – Needs Assessment recommendations meeting.
- 20 – VR-TAC QM meeting.
- 19-Jan 2 – Annual/Holiday Leave.

January

- 6 – Human Services Cabinet Meeting.
- 11 – OKIPSE Update Meeting; Senate Budget Hearing.
- 13 – OCCY Meeting.
- 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Holiday
- 17 – All OSD Assembly and Welcome of Dr. Heather Laine, new OSD Superintendent; DRS Support Services and OSD Administrative Team meeting.
- 19 – ORC Executive Committee Meeting.

February

- 2 – House of Representatives Budget Hearing.
- 8 – Present on State of the Art (SOTA) Panel.
- 7 – VR/SBVI Performance Team Meeting.
- 8 – OKIPSE Update Meeting; DRS Executive Team Meeting.

**SFY 2022 Agency Information Correction**

On January 24, an error was discovered on vocational rehabilitation data. This information was reported to the communications unit for annual reporting purposes and to the financial services division for legislative budget reports.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) created a subset of cases (Pre-Ets) that can be served outside of the regular case management system. The counts reflect a second full year of data collection on those Pre-Ets cases. The two data streams (Actual Services recorded and Pre-Ets) allowed for a duplication of counts. This is a ripple effect from a law changing, delays in producing rules, adaptations of technology to track and then ultimately data analysis.

Further, there was the timing of expanding the analytics team which brought in new layers of analysis. We now have a better understanding of how the data is created and improves the analytics. However, there have been opportunities for improvement revealed. The anomaly that occurred in the data reporting will be accounted for in future years.

The annual report numbers and the legislative budget reports are being updated.

### **VR On-Line Self-Referral/Customer Portal**

On January 13, staff training was completed for the portal and was then turned on in Aware. The portal went Live to the public and the portal link activated on the OKDRS website on January 17.

As of February 1, there have been 22 individuals to self-refer through the portal. Two individuals already have an active case.

### **People with Disability Awareness Day 2023 – Jody Harlan**

The Communications Team is planning the 29th People with Disabilities Awareness Day. Over the years, 12,988 Oklahomans have attended our annual event. Please mark your calendars for March 7, 2023.

### **Process Improvement (PI)**

#### **AWARE**

The AWARE team continues working on the roll-out of the new On-Line Self-Referral/Customer Portal including the development of training documents and videos sent to staff followed up by a live Q & A session on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Worked with the Gatekeeper to walk through the referral assignment process for the new referrals to get them routed to the local offices in the timeliest way possible.

The AWARE team has worked with the Professional Development Unit to develop training content for a Tech 101 training for rehabilitation technicians scheduled for February 1, 2023, in Oklahoma City. Brenda Brasher, AWARE team member will be assisting with the training.

Continues work on the project with Alliance Enterprises and the Universities of Missouri and Oklahoma to develop a portal for capturing pre-employment transition services provided to eligible and potentially eligible high school students across the state of Oklahoma to import those services into the AWARE system to facilitate Federal reporting.

### **Case Review**

The QA team, for the month of January is currently reviewing open cases.

QA recently made the decision to review current cases opened since January 2019 through the current month and year. This provides a clearer picture of how current policy and procedures are being implemented.

**Program Standards, Statistical Research**

The research team finalized and published the 2020-2022 Statewide Needs Assessment. The full report was provided to agency leadership and the ORC.

The research team finalized the 2022 VIBE complete feedback report.

The research team finalized the SBVI AT survey report.

The data team presented the transition student dashboard to the agency performance team and discussed additional projects in process.

The research team is preparing to begin the distribution of the 2023 Open Case Satisfaction survey to a random sample of adult clients.

***Respectfully submitted by  
Melinda Freundt, Executive Director***



# **FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

## All Programs Agency Summary

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	87,805,007.00	52.9%	37,315,929.81	42.5%	50,040,829.29	99.5%
Travel	751,239.00	0.5%	464,161.45	61.8%	67,269.25	70.7%
General Operating	22,103,912.00	13.3%	6,106,552.84	27.6%	13,250,718.77	87.6%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,715,998.00	1.0%	225,985.47	13.2%	347,237.00	33.4%
Client / General Assistance	44,060,925.00	26.5%	11,113,801.09	25.2%	30,346,906.10	94.1%
Indirect Cost	9,694,954.00	5.8%	4,379,077.42	45.2%	5,315,876.58	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,132,035.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>59,605,508.08</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>99,368,836.99</b>	<b>95.7%</b>

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

All Programs						
Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	25,783,092.00	33.8%	10,492,740.97	40.7%	15,174,870.66	99.6%
Travel	485,400.00	0.6%	336,591.00	69.3%	320.00	69.4%
General Operating	9,338,382.00	12.2%	2,893,849.57	31.0%	5,500,738.03	89.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	679,781.00	0.9%	127,429.74	18.7%	3,570.00	19.3%
Client / General Assistance	36,280,925.00	47.5%	7,649,936.80	21.1%	26,303,209.38	93.6%
Indirect Cost	3,739,420.00	4.9%	1,635,085.85	43.7%	2,104,334.15	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,307,000.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>23,135,633.93</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>49,087,042.22</b>	<b>94.6%</b>
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	23,222,094.00	32.3%	9,422,591.63	40.6%	13,749,378.01	99.8%
Travel	474,500.00	0.7%	329,988.03	69.5%	221.31	69.6%
General Operating	8,576,941.00	11.9%	2,739,053.63	31.9%	4,890,526.64	89.0%
Office Furniture & Equipment	509,281.00	0.7%	90,336.68	17.7%	0.00	17.7%
Client / General Assistance	35,634,667.00	49.6%	7,504,353.70	21.1%	25,946,551.80	93.9%
Indirect Cost	3,454,557.00	4.8%	1,514,841.80	43.9%	1,939,715.20	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,872,040.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21,601,165.47</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>46,526,392.96</b>	<b>94.8%</b>

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	6,684,882.00	73.9%	3,238,058.32	48.4%	3,433,819.31	99.8%
Travel	50,000.00	0.6%	33,140.29	66.3%	9,140.00	84.6%
General Operating	1,196,044.00	13.2%	474,136.16	39.6%	619,216.22	91.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	423,300.00	4.7%	48,810.06	11.5%	232,459.00	66.4%
Client / General Assistance	57,000.00	0.6%	18,156.36	31.9%	0.00	31.9%
Indirect Cost	628,996.00	7.0%	334,699.85	53.2%	294,296.15	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,040,222.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,147,001.04</b>	<b>45.9%</b>	<b>4,588,930.68</b>	<b>96.6%</b>

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,792,750.00	53.6%	3,386,222.18	43.5%	4,368,741.27	99.5%
Travel	103,439.00	0.7%	48,358.51	46.8%	24,000.00	70.0%
General Operating	4,940,664.00	34.0%	689,513.56	14.0%	3,332,581.69	81.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	534,180.00	3.7%	46,356.12	8.7%	111,208.00	29.5%
Client / General Assistance	373,000.00	2.6%	97,607.64	26.2%	41,797.01	37.4%
Indirect Cost	782,043.00	5.4%	362,555.69	46.4%	419,487.31	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,526,076.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,630,613.70</b>	<b>31.9%</b>	<b>8,297,815.28</b>	<b>89.0%</b>

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

All Programs						
Disability Determination Division						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	39,833,335.00	71.5%	16,799,490.57	42.2%	22,766,661.87	99.3%
Travel	69,300.00	0.1%	22,233.71	32.1%	33,809.25	80.9%
General Operating	3,895,968.00	7.0%	1,221,140.01	31.3%	2,254,391.17	89.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	31,237.00	0.1%	1,050.73	3.4%	0.00	3.4%
Client / General Assistance	7,350,000.00	13.2%	3,348,100.29	45.6%	4,001,899.71	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,538,160.00	8.1%	2,043,903.03	45.0%	2,494,256.97	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,718,000.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>23,435,918.34</b>	<b>42.1%</b>	<b>31,551,018.97</b>	<b>98.7%</b>

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

All Programs						
DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,710,948.00	73.2%	3,399,417.77	44.1%	4,296,736.18	99.8%
Travel	43,100.00	0.4%	23,837.94	55.3%	0.00	55.3%
General Operating	2,732,854.00	25.9%	827,913.54	30.3%	1,543,791.66	86.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	47,500.00	0.5%	2,338.82	4.9%	0.00	4.9%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	6,335.00	0.1%	2,833.00	44.7%	3,502.00	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,540,737.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,256,341.07</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>5,844,029.84</b>	<b>95.8%</b>

# Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of December 31, 2022

<b>Personnel</b>
Salary Expense
Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc
FICA-Retirement Contributions
<b>Travel</b>
Travel - Agency Direct
Travel - Reimbursements
<b>General Operating</b>
AFP Encumbrances
Bond Indebtness and Expenses
Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation
General Operating
Inter/Intra Agency Payment for Personal Services
Maintenance & Repair
Miscellaneous Administration Fee
Professional Services
Production, Safety, Security
Refunds, Indemnities, Restitution
Rent Expense
Scholarships, Tuition and Other Incentive-Type Payments
Shop Expense
Specialized Supplies & Materials
<b>Office Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>
Library Equipment & Resources
Office Furniture & Equipment
<b>Client / General Assistance</b>
Social Service and Assistance Payments
<b>Indirect Cost</b>



# **PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT**

# PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023

## FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 18 vacant positions filled / 85 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
MSD	Contracting & Acquisitions Agent / 0858	12/12/2022	MSD CDS	1/11/2023	1/31/2023	23-057	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 1082	07/22/2022	MSD CDS	11/21/2022	11/29/2022	23-044	Sara Seabolt	12/12/2022
MSD	Human Resources Programs Manager / 0926	12/01/2022	MSD HR	11/23/2022	12/14/2022	23-046	In Selection Process	
FSD	Accountant / 1063	09/20/2022	FSD	09/26/2022	10/13/2022	23-023	James Mason	01/03/2023
DDS	Administrative Programs Officer / 0685	10/31/2022	DDS	12/09/2022	12/19/2022	23-051	In Selection Process	

03/04/2020  
 03/23/2021  
 03/01/2017  
 05/25/2021  
 07/09/2021  
 04/20/2021  
 09/24/2021  
 08/01/2021  
 08/01/2021  
 04/01/2022  
 09/17/2021  
 05/28/2021  
 09/24/2021  
 08/02/2022  
 09/13/2021  
 01/01/2022  
 04/30/2021  
 04/19/2021  
 08/23/2021  
 04/08/2021  
 03/01/2022  
 03/09/2022  
 07/01/2021  
 04/01/2022

Disability Determination Specialist / 1308,  
 1281, 1278, 1200, 1198, 1194, 0068,  
 1186, 0960, 0885, 0406, 0566, 0584,  
 0734, 1306, 0019, 1329, 0144, 1269,  
 1274, 0340, 0335, 0271, 0110

23-033 Currently Open

DDS	Disability Determination Specialist / 0352	03/19/2020	DDS	10/24/2022	10/28/2022	23-034	Jeremy Cantrell	12/12/2022
DDS	Disability Program Administrator / 1233, 1237, 1421	06/01/2022					Krista Atkinson	12/01/2022
OSB	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0131	02/11/2022	DDS	09/29/2022	10/07/2022	23-026	Donna Weddle	12/01/2022
OSB	Teacher, 2083 / 0538	04/01/2022	OSB	12/07/2022	Continuous	23-047	Sabrina Little Axe	12/01/2022
OSB	Transportation Officer/Student Aide, 5793 / 1084	12/31/2022	OSB	12/15/2022	Continuous	23-049	Currently Open	
OSB		09/29/2022	OSB	09/30/2022	Continuous	23-024	Currently Open	
OSB		09/01/2022					Carmen Hicks	12/04/2022
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0235, 0298, 0552	09/07/2022	OSB	09/29/2022	Continuous	23-027	Currently Open	
OSD	OSD School Counselor Intern / 1208	10/01/2022	OSD	01/30/2023	2/03/2023	23-060	Amy Messer	01/02/2023
OSD	Teaching Assistant / P103831	07/01/2011	OSD	12/05/2022	Continuous	23-048	Currently Open	
OSD	School Psychologist, 2045 / 0070	New PIN	OSD	12/08/2022	Continuous	23-050	Currently Open	
OSD		12/31/2022					Amanda Jones	01/02/2023
OSD	Direct Care Specialist / 0521, 0620	10/01/2022	OSD	10/04/2022	Continuous	23-032	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher / 0635	10/01/2022	OSD	07/20/2022	Continuous	23-011	Currently Open	
OSD	Teaching Assistant / 0060	07/31/2022	OSD	07/20/2022	Continuous	23-013	Currently Open	
OSD	School Superintendent / 0023	06/09/2022	OSD	05/04/2022	Continuous	22-088	Heather Laine	01/17/2023
OSD	LPN, 2603 / 0549	06/01/2022	OSD	08/23/2021	Continuous	22-007.1	Currently Open	
OSD	Counselor, 2240 / 1028	04/22/2021	OSD	09/14/2021	Continuous	22-016.1	Currently Open	
OSD		08/06/2021						
OSD		07/31/2021						
OSD		04/30/2020						
OSD		08/01/2021						
OSD		08/01/2021						
OSD	Teacher / 0569, 0890, 0423	08/01/2021	OSD	02/09/2021	Continuous	21-046	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0181		VR04 –					
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0767	10/31/2022	Bartlesville	12/20/2022	Continuous	23-053	Christopher Lange	01/17/2023
VR		01/07/2023	VR86 – Ada	01/25/2023	Continuous	23/058	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1031		VR66 –					
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0955, 0516	09/01/2022	Tulsa	11/07/2022	Continuous	23-029	Currently Open	
VR		10/31/2022	VR80 –					
VR		10/19/2022	Tulsa	11/03/2022	Continuous	23-037	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0646		VR41 –					
VR		08/01/2022	Ponca City	11/21/2022	Continuous	23-038	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0680		VR03 –					
VR		10/01/2022	Ardmore	11/14/2022	Continuous	23-039	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0948		VR05 –					
VR		11/08/2022	Weatherford	11/16/2022	Continuous	23-040	Currently Open	

VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0477	10/01/2022	VR18 – Muskogee	11/23/2022	Continuous	23-041	Currently Open
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0600	09/09/2022	VR49 – OKC	10/28/2022	Continuous	23-028	<b>Fatima Gaytan</b> 01/17/2023
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0079	09/16/2022	VR23 – OKC	10/07/2022	Continuous	23-030	<b>Susan Mullet</b> 01/17/2023
VR	Business Services Liaison / 0814	07/22/2022	VR86 – Ada	10/26/2022	Continuous	23-035	Currently Open
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0372	06/01/2022	VR08 – Enid	10/25/2022	Continuous	23-036	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0366	08/31/2022	VR31 – OKC	09/01/2022	Continuous	23-019	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0119	09/30/2022	VR12 – Lawton	09/02/2022	Continuous	23-020	<b>Shanequa Miles</b> 12/01/2022
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0776	07/15/2022	VR86 – Ada	09/06/2022	Continuous	23-021	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1078	08/01/2022	VR07 – Durant	09/06/2022	Continuous	23-022	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0073	06/20/2022	VR13 – McAlester	07/08/2022	Continuous	23-003	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0325, 0904	06/17/2022	VR80 – Tulsa	07/20/2022	Continuous	23-008	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0044	04/09/2022	VR67 – Tulsa	06/09/2022	Continuous	22-102	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0793	07/26/2022	VR05 – Weatherford	06/13/2022	Continuous	22-105	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0339	05/01/2022	VR56 – Woodward	05/04/2022	Continuous	22-085	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0846	05/05/2022	VR19 – OKC	05/10/2022	Continuous	22-089	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0714	04/09/2022	VR26 – Claremore	04/25/2022	Continuous	22-082	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1077	10/01/2019	VR03 – Ardmore	04/27/2022	Continuous	22-083	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0381	04/04/2022	VR04 – Bartlesville	04/06/2022	Continuous	22-072	Currently Open
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0440	03/16/2022	VR38 – Okmulgee	04/18/2022	Continuous	22-079	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0820	01/21/2022	VR63 – Alva	03/29/2022	Continuous	22-055.1	<b>Bob Dobrinski</b> 01/03/2023
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0200	02/01/2022	VR67 – Tulsa	04/18/2022	Continuous	22-056.1	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0764	03/06/2021	VR02 – Altus	08/16/2021	Continuous	21-069.2	<b>Susan Sanchez</b> 12/01/2022
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0752	11/02/2021	VR80 – Tulsa	01/11/2022	Continuous	21-054.1	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0567	09/01/2020	VR67 – Tulsa	12/22/2020	Continuous	21-028.1	Currently Open

VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0627	07/08/2020	VR18 – Muskogee	08/18/2021	Continuous	21-007.2	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0766	12/05/2022	SBVI 60 – Lawton	12/20/2022	Continuous	23-052	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Facility Business Consultant / 0170, 0134	06/01/2022 09/23/2022	SBVI 33 – OKC	01/04/2023	Continuous	23-054	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0001	01/15/2023	SBVI 73 – OKC	01/11/2023	Continuous	23-055	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 0805, 1027	11/21/2020 01/01/2021	SBVI 33 – OKC	01/11/2023	Continuous	23-056	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0083	12/01/2022	SBVI 58 – Ada	11/23/2022	01/10/2023	23-043	Currently Open
SBVI	Library Technician / 0354	11/04/2022	SBVI 72 – OKC	11/29/2022	Continuous	23-045	Jack Fox 01/17/2023
SBVI	BEP Operations Coordinator / 1209	03/26/2022	SBVI33 – OKC	05/03/2022	Continuous	22-084	Currently Open
SBVI	Business Services Liaison / 0159	09/01/221	TBD	05/11/2022	Continuous	22-090	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1033	05/20/2022	SBVI73 – OKC	05/31/2022	Continuous	22-097	Currently Open
SBVI	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0091	07/01/2020	SBVI – TBD	03/14/2022	Continuous	22-066	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Operations Manager / 1486	11/20/2021	SBVI 33 – OKC	05/10/2022	Continuous	22-067.1	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0709	02/08/2022	SBVI 84 – McAlester	04/29/2022	Continuous	22-058.1	Currently Open
SBVI	Deaf/Blind Program Specialist / 1144	10/01/2021	SBVI 91 – Tulsa	03/11/2022	Continuous	22-043.1	Kelley Gutierrez 12/01/2022
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0669	05/29/2021	SBVI 69 – Weatherford	01/26/2022	Continuous	21-080.5	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 0167	02/20/2020	SBVI 33 – BEP	08/31/2020	Continuous	21-014	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Facility Business Consultant / 0003	10/01/2021	SBVI 33 – OKC BEP	09/09/2021	Continuous	22-020	Currently Open

**DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 20**

**As of January 31, 2023**

**SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)**

Resignation = 1

1 = 1 year 4 months

**DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

Resignation = 3

1 = 5 years 2 months

1 = 3 years 4 months

1 = 5 years

Discharge (Trial Period) = 1

1 = 5 months

Retirement = 2

1 = 36 years 4 months

1 = 9 years 8 months

**SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION**

Resignation = 2

1 = 16 years

1 = 13 years 8 months

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**

Resignation = 2

1 = 1 year 7 months

1 = 8 days

Retirement = 1  
1 = 10 years 6 months

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

Resignation - 2  
1 = 4 years 4 months  
1 = 2 years 4 months

**DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES**

Resignation = 2  
1 = 4 years 6 months  
1 = 11 years 8 months

Retirement = 4  
1 = 18 years 5 months  
1 = 22 years 2 months  
1 = 34 years 2 months  
1 = 19 years 2 months

# CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2023

FTE as of January 31, 2023

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>BUDGETED FTE</u>	<u>FILLED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	<u>EXEMPT FTE</u>	<u>TOTAL FILLED PLUS PENDING MINUS EXEMPT FTE</u>
Support Services (Executive/MSD/FSD)	74.8	72.00	2.00	(1.00)	73.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	226.8	186.00	28.00	(4.00)	210.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	108.00	86.00	16.00	(3.00)	99.00
VR/SBVI-DP	2.00	2.00	0.00	(0.00)	2.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	98.0	96.00	4.00	0.00	100.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	119.5	109.00	11.00	0.00	120.00
<b>Total (NON-EXEMPT)</b>	<b>629.1</b>	<b>551.00</b>	<b>61.00</b>	<b>(8.00)</b>	<b>604.00</b>
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	367.8	321.00	24.00	(321.00)	345.00
<b>TOTAL NON-EXEMPT &amp; EXEMPT</b>	<b>996.9</b>	<b>872.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>(329.00)</b>	<b>949.00</b>
<b>FY 23 Budgetary Limit = 1255</b>					

**\* Authorized agency FTE limit does not include Executive Fellow and SWIP appointments**

ROUTING TO: Melinda Fruendt, Director  
 Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer  
 Randy Weaver, Chief of Operations  
 Tom Patt, Human Resources Program Director  
 Dana Tallon, Public Information Manager II  
 Carol Brown, Executive Assistant  
 Rosemarie Chitwood, Secretary V  
 Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III



# **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT**

## 02/13/23 – DRS Commission Legislative Report

### by Jennifer Hardin

- 01/19/23 - Bill Filing Deadline
- Total Bills Filed = 3,772
- 02/06/2023 – First Day of the First Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>DRS Request Bills</b>
--------------------------

[HB 1041](#)

[Randleman, Randy\(R\)](#)

**Establishes an alternative diploma program for students with significant cognitive disabilities.**

*Note: This is a joint request with the OK. Dept. of Ed.*

***Problem being addressed:***

Many districts have been graduating these students with a regular high school diploma, prior to ageing out due to accountability purposes. When this occurs, the schools are no longer required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) even when some students may need additional services. The change will provide a meaningful diploma option to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It will allow students to qualify for a FAPE until the school year in which they turn 22. Allowing districts to include these students as graduated (with no penalty) for accountability purposes.

**Bill History:** 01/11/23 - Filed

**DRS Request Bills**

[SB 154](#)

[Stanley, Brenda\(R\)](#)

**Provides an exception from the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) to ASL & braille students, replacing with a formative evaluation.**

**Note: This is a joint request with the OK. Dept. of Ed.**

**Problem being addressed:**

The current requirements do not address an infrastructure that ensures equity practices. The Reading Sufficiency Act evaluation was designed for hearing and sighted students. Allowing the exemption would reduce time consuming testing and allow educators to measure benchmarks by utilizing a formative evaluation system. The replacement method would use authentic reading and writing skills unlike the current RSA evaluation method. The intention is not to reduce requirements for these student groups but offer a meaningful alternative assessment that will provide educators with the best information to make data-driven decisions for each student. For students receiving an exemption, the school must report on measures of proficiency and language attainment through alternative means.

The State Board of Education will promulgate rules to determine measures of proficiency for students receiving exemptions.

**Bill History:** 01/23/23 - Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

Direct DRS Impact Bills

SB 357

Dossett, Jo Anna (F)(D)

**Includes the OK School for the Deaf and the OK School for the Blind in future disbursements of Redbud school grants by the Board of Education.**

**Bill History:** In 2021, the Redbud School Funding grant began directing a portion of medical marijuana tax revenue to eligible charter and public-school districts for improving school buildings.

Potential issues for applying to OSD & OSB:

- We are not sure how the property tax criteria will be interpreted or adjusted as students come from all over Oklahoma.
- The criteria for determining the allocation is based off of local property taxes and funding per pupil. OSB & OSD do not receive funding from local property taxes like other schools.

**01/24/2023** – Sen. Dossett was made aware of the potential issues. She is working with the bill drafter and House author on possible solutions.

**01/26/23** - Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

---

SB 487

Matthews, Kevin(D)

**Makes an appropriation to fund the Statewide Independent Living Council; up to \$400,000 may be used as necessary.**

**Bill History:** 01/26/23 - Referred to Senate Committee Senate Appropriations

---

SB 598

Kirt, Julia(D)

**Modifies language changing the term 'handicapped' to 'disability' in Title 7 and Title 74.**

**Bill History:** This legislation was filed during the 58<sup>th</sup> legislative session in HB1792. The version filed in '21 opened approximately 18 Titles of law.

**4/14/22** – Sen. Kirt advised the bill was not going to be heard in committee due to concerns about the legislation opening several titles. In addition, there were inconsistencies with the language and concerns about different advocacy groups coming to a consensus about which terms to use. As a result, HB1792 became dead pursuant to the rules.

**01/11/23** – Sen. Kirt advised she has been working with self-advocates on the language for the updated bill. Due to the previous concerns from last session the updated version will only open Title 7 & Title 74 for the amendments.

**01/17/2023** - SB598 filed.

**01/23/2023** – Bill sent to DRS Ex. Team for review.

**01/27/23** - Referred to Senate Committee  
Senate General Government

*The shell bills noted below were filed in case an emergent issue arises during session that requires immediate legislative attention.*

<b>DRS Shell Bills</b>
------------------------

HB 1061	Lawson, Mark(R)	<b>Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.</b>
HB 1062	Lawson, Mark(R)	<b>Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.</b>
HB 1063	Lawson, Mark(R)	<b>Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.</b>
HB 1064	Lawson, Mark(R)	<b>Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.</b>

- The DRS legislative monitoring list will continuously be updated as bills are reviewed or amended. I will distribute a bill status report on a weekly basis.
- Please don't hesitate to contact me if you become aware of a specific bill you would like to be monitored.



# OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

## Bill Status Report

01-29-2023 - 17:26:39

### DRS Request Bills

HB 1041 Randleman, Randy(R) Establishes standards and requirements for students to graduate school with alternative diploma program; EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-11-23 H Filed

SB 154 Stanley, Brenda(R) Provides exception for certain school reading level requirements to students meeting certain alternative standards, with continuing reporting of learning progress; EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

### DRS Shell Bills

HB 1061 Lawson, Mark(R) Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-11-23 H Filed

HB 1062 Lawson, Mark(R) Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-11-23 H Filed

HB 1063 Lawson, Mark(R) Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-11-23 H Filed

HB 1064 Lawson, Mark(R) Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.

### Direct DRS Impact Bills

HB 1790 Williams, Danny(R) Permits state employees to donate up to twelve hours of time per year for volunteer administrative

		leave at certain charitable organizations or public schools.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 2253	Burns, Ty(R)	Authorizes the Historical Society to purchase light-duty trucks to use at state facilities to maintain historic properties and sites.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2664	Steagall, Jay(R)	Clarifies language relating to the State Use Advisory Council obligations and powers.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2722	Hefner, Eilyn (F)(D)	Requires certain governmental organizations and future contacts to provide or make accessible information about ABLE accounts and programs; EMERGENCY.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
SB 357	Dossett, Jo Anna (F)(D)	Includes the OK School for the Deaf and the OK School for the Blind in future disbursements of Redbud school grants by the Board of Education; EMERGENCY.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-26-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 487	Matthews, Kevin(D)	Makes an appropriation to allow the creation of the Statewide Independent Living Council; EMERGENCY.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-26-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Appropriations
SB 598	Kirt, Julia(D)	Statutory terms; updating terminology related to persons with disabilities. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate General Government
SB 748	Rosino, Paul(R)	Office of Disability Concerns; consolidating the Office under the Department of Human Services subject to certain federal regulations. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Health & Human Services
SB 1021	Jett, Shane (F)(R)	Oklahoma Universal Service Fund; creating Advisory Board; establishing Board purpose and membership. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 S Filed

<b>Education Bills</b>
------------------------

HB 1028	Talley, John(R)	Prohibits school district personnel from using corporal punishment on any student with disabilities.  <b>Bill History:</b> 12-29-22 H Filed
HB 1423	Hasenbeck, Toni(R)	Reduces minimum years of service for teachers to receive certain retirement benefits.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 1428	Vancuren, Mark(R)	Directs the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability to reward teachers who are renewing their National Board certification by awarding certain fees and bonuses and removes certain salary benefits related to certification.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 1810	Conley, Sherrie(R)	Prohibits certain materials from being present in any way in a school setting, from books and curriculum to anything used by a speaker or presenter.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 1882	Waldron, John(D)	Prohibits annual school review reports from the School Testing Program from including grade values.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 1883	Waldron, John(D)	Provides for an increase in teacher compensation; EMERGENCY.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 1886	Waldron, John(D)	Directs the Dept. of Education to develop a system to code initial teacher certification and report on pathways to teacher certification, including emergency certification, data to be managed by a new Data Governance Council.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-18-23 H Filed
HB 1903	Fugate, Andy(D)	Adjusts the membership of the Board of Education to add additional members selected by the Legislature and by statewide teacher associations and the Regents for Higher Education.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed



HB 1935	McCall, Charles(R)	Creates the Oklahoma Education Finance Policy Act of 2023. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 1938	McCall, Charles(R)	Requires each school district board of education to adopt a written policy at an open meeting establishing processes and standards for acceptance and reciprocity of credits for courses completed at another institution; EMERGENCY. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2007	Davis, Dean(R)	Allows school personnel to search shoes, socks, and hand and head coverings of students in addition to outerwear for weapons, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, or certain stolen property. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2008	Davis, Dean(R)	Adjusts provisions of the Teachers' Retirement System, lowering eligibility requirements, adjusts benefit calculations, removes earnings limits, provides pay scheduled for retired teachers reemployed, and modifies contract requirements for those teachers. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2019	Ranson, Trish(D)	Creates the Oklahoma Higher Education Act of 2023. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2029	Wolfley, Max(R)	Limits the maximum salary certain boards of education may contract with superintendents; EMERGENCY. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2071	Caldwell, Chad(R)	Requires school districts to spend at least sixty percent of their annual budgets on instructional expenditures; EMERGENCY. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2072	Caldwell, Chad(R)	Requires superintendents to have a baccalaureate degree at minimum, removing certain teacher certification requirements; EMERGENCY. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2162	Lowe, Dick(R)	Adds ten additional years to the top end of the certified school employee salary schedule,

commensurate with experience of up to 35 years;  
EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2319 Hilbert, Kyle(R) Removes limits on monthly retirement benefits for certain retired teachers relating to reemployment; EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2320 Hilbert, Kyle(R) Removes certain limitations on teachers accessing monthly retirement benefits when reemployed by another public school after retirement; EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2384 Kannady, Chris(R) Creates the State Education Act.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2412 Johns, Ronny(R) Requires each school district to provide a wage increase of 6% to every support employee; EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2413 Johns, Ronny(R) Restricts the educational management organizations charter schools receiving public funds are allowed to contract with, such organizations going forward shall be either a nonprofit organization or a benefit corporation.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2415 Johns, Ronny(R) Modifies requirements of a school district board of education to adopt a school hours policy if said district board holds certain meetings, maintains certain standards; EMERGENCY.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

HB 2528 Lepak, Mark(R) Modifies school employee applications to the Teachers' Retirement System, adjusts membership requirements, benefits, and options, and repeals provisions relating to prior service credits and unclassified positions heading the System.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

HB 2558	McBride, Mark(R)	Provides an annual salary bonus for certain teachers holding National Board certification; EMERGENCY.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2755	Miller, Nicole(R)	Provides retirement credit to teachers who participated in AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2840	Caldwell, Trey(R)	Provides for annual bonuses in increasing amounts for teachers with National Board Certification; EMERGENCY.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-19-23 H Filed
SB 28	Pemberton, Dewayne(R)	Provides for gradual increases to total teacher compensation over the 2023-2030 school years and establishes standards for increased pay related to various educational and certification achievements; EMERGENCY.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 39	Stanley, Brenda(R)	Includes school support employees under provisions which protect school personnel from punitive actions when reporting or disclosing information they reasonably believe relate to a violation of law or constitutional rights; EMERGENCY.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 48	Stanley, Brenda(R)	Adjusts standards and requirements of mentor teachers, increasing required qualifications, related compensation and the duration of mentorships; EMERGENCY.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 52	Stanley, Brenda(R)	Declares that accumulated sick leave for teachers and school support personnel shall not be lost due to any break in employment and shall be transferable; EMERGENCY.
	<b>Bill History:</b>	01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

SB 148	Hicks, Carri(D)	Requires school districts to create special education advisory councils to address special education needs within the district, the council to meet at least once per year; EMERGENCY.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 203	Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)	Reduces the minimum instructional days for school districts operating on a minimum hours policy and removes standards tying an hours policy to student performance; EMERGENCY.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 332	Dossett, Jo Anna (F)(D)	Adjusts the definition of a career teacher to include those who have taught for the requisite amount of time but across several different districts; EMERGENCY.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-26-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 482	Pugh, Adam(R)	Provides for a new minimum salary schedule and benefits structure for certified school personnel; EMERGENCY.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-26-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 723	Hicks, Carri(D)	Teacher compensation; amending minimum salary schedule. Effective date. Emergency.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 853	Dossett, Jo Anna (F)(D)	Teachers' Retirement System; providing for recurring benefits increase.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Retirement & Insurance
SB 865	Bullard, David(R)	Teachers; creating the Teachers' Bill of Rights; affording certain rights to teachers, administrators, and support staff. Effective date. Emergency.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 866	Bullard, David(R)	Schools; requiring written consent to participate in certain curriculum; directing certain curriculum and materials be available for inspection. Effective date. Emergency.  <b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

SB 903	Jett, Shane (F)(R)	Teacher compensation; increasing minimum salary schedule. Effective Date. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 S Filed
SB 926	Jett, Shane (F)(R)	Teachers; modifying amount of credit school districts may grant for certain service in the minimum salary schedule. Effective date. Emergency. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 S Filed
SB 1014	Jett, Shane (F)(R)	School employees; requiring notification from law enforcement upon arrest or investigation of school employee for certain offenses. Effective date. Emergency. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 S Filed
SB 1027	Jett, Shane (F)(R)	Schools; prohibiting public schools from using certain funds to promote concepts of social emotional learning. Effective date. Emergency. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 S Filed

**General Government Bills**

HB 2111	Pae, Daniel(R)	Directs state entities to award at least five percent of all contracts to companies which have been in operation for less than five years and adjusts certain bidding processes to give preference where possible. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2376	Kannady, Chris(R)	Creates the State Employee Act of 2023. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2392	Kannady, Chris(R)	Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2461	Hill, Brian(R)	Creates the Oklahoma Capitol Critical Infrastructure Act which declares the State Capitol Complex as critical infrastructure. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed

HB 2463	Hill, Brian(R)	Removes requirements that OCAST establish certain programs and make health research program evaluations, making such actions permissive rather than required.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2496	Hill, Brian(R)	Creates the State Government Reform Act of 2023.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
HB 2854	Wallace, Kevin(R)	Public retirement systems; Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System; defined contribution plan; defined benefit plan; accounts; service credit; effective dates.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 H Filed
SB 65	Stanley, Brenda(R)	Provides for one additional personal holiday each year for permanent state employees to be taken on one of several selected holidays or on the employee's birthday.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate General Government
SB 596	Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)	Long-term care; requiring certain regulation of intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities with sixteen or fewer beds. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Health & Human Services
SB 812	Dossett, Jo Anna (F)(D)	State governments; requiring percentage of state contracts to be awarded to certain businesses. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate General Government
SB 990	Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)	Family leave benefits; creating the Oklahoma Paid Family Leave Program; authorizing certain pay for family leave based upon certain contributions by employer and employee. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-27-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Business & Commerce
SB 1075	Jett, Shane (F)(R)	State government; prohibiting the state or any political subdivision from entering into contracts with certain companies that engage in boycotts. Effective date.
		<b>Bill History:</b> 01-19-23 S Filed

## OMES Bills

[HB 1784](#) [Williams, Danny\(R\)](#) Creates the Information Services Agency as a distinct entity, separated from OMES and transfers related duties and responsibilities.

**Bill History:** 01-18-23 H Filed

---

[HB 2026](#) [Wolfley, Max\(R\)](#) Requires the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to provide an association representing state employees with a monthly reconciliation report with information related to opted in members.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[SB 247](#) [Rader, Dave\(R\)](#) Removes the spending authority of OMES over the County Community Safety Investment Fund, directing the Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services to distribute the funds and report on the results.

**Bill History:** 01-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Health & Human Services

## Open Meeting/Records Bills

[HB 2092](#) [Echols, Jon\(R\)](#) Creates the Oklahoma Open Records Amendments Act of 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[HB 2093](#) [Echols, Jon\(R\)](#) Creates the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law Amendments Act of 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[HB 2108](#) [Pae, Daniel\(R\)](#) Adjusts provisions of the Open Meeting Act to permit limited digital participation during public meetings and under set public access standards.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[HB 2287](#) [Pfeiffer, John\(R\)](#) Establishes a Public Access Counselor within the Office of the Attorney General to review, upon

request, rejected requests for inspection of public records.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[HB 2377](#)

[Kannady, Chris\(R\)](#)

Permits school personnel to keep confidential contracts for a student athlete's name, image or likeness disclosed to a postsecondary institution.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[HB 2399](#)

[Kannady, Chris\(R\)](#)

Creates the Oklahoma Open Meeting Policy Act of 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 H Filed

---

[SB 1044](#)

[Jett, Shane \(F\)\(R\)](#)

Oklahoma Open Records Act; modifying exception to certain definition. Effective date.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 S Filed

---

[SB 1055](#)

[Kidd, Chris\(R\)](#)

Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; removing expired language; authorizing public bodies to conduct meetings by videoconference. Effective date. Emergency.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 S Filed

---

[SB 1092](#)

[Newhouse, Joe\(R\)](#)

Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; removing expired language; authorizing public bodies to conduct meetings by videoconference. Effective date. Emergency.

**Bill History:** 01-19-23 S Filed



## HB1040 – Alternate Diploma

by Rep. Randleman & Sen. Stanley

### **Bill Synopsis:**

**Establishes standards and requirements to offer students with the most significant cognitive disabilities an alternative diploma program.**

### **Background:**

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the obligation to make available a free appropriate public education (FAPE) continues beyond high school if the student has not graduated from high school with a regular diploma as defined by IDEA and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). To be treated as a "regular high-school diploma" federal law requires that it be fully aligned with the State's standards. ESSA, Section 8101(43).

§ 300.102 Limitation - exception to FAPE for certain ages.

- As used in [paragraphs \(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#) through [\(iii\)](#) of this section, the term *regular high school diploma* means the standard high school diploma awarded to the preponderance of students in the State that is fully aligned with State standards, or a higher diploma,
- *except that a regular high school diploma shall not be aligned to the alternate academic achievement standards* described in section 1111(b)(1)(E) of the ESEA. A regular high school diploma does not include a recognized equivalent of a diploma, such as a general equivalency diploma, certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or similar lesser credential.

### **Problem:**

This means that students assessed through the OAAP (Alternate Academic Achievement Standards) are NOT eligible for a regular high school diploma, which ceases a district's FAPE obligation and should not count as graduated for accountability purposes.

Many districts have been graduating these students with a regular high school diploma, prior to ageing out (before they turn 22) who may in fact need additional services to receive a FAPE. This is done to meet accountability requirements.

Our state currently only has one diploma option.

### **Solution:**

**ESSA provides for the development of a state-defined alternate diploma, specifically designated for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities assessed using the OK. alternate assessment Program standards. This will allow students who participate in the OAAP Program to receive a**

**diploma, their receipt of that diploma counts as being graduated, and they can continue (if they choose) to receive services until the school year in which they turn 22.**

The state-defined alternate diploma must meet three requirements:

- ✓ Standards-based
- ✓ Aligned with the State requirements for the regular high school diploma
- ✓ Obtained within the same period for which the State ensures the availability of a free appropriate public education under section 612(a)(1) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(1))

#### **How is the State-defined Alternate Diploma different from a Regular Diploma?**

- While this diploma is standards-based and aligned with the state requirements for the Regular High School Diploma, it is not a Regular High School Diploma.
- Students with IEPs who earn an Alternate Diploma may not be prevented from working towards meeting the requirements for the regular high school diploma.
- A State-defined Alternate Diploma does not terminate a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

#### **How will this diploma impact these students' future postsecondary and/or transition opportunities?**

- For postsecondary and transition opportunities, many institutions will allow the credential for transition opportunities and, as with the Regular Diploma, there would most likely be additional admission criteria for postsecondary institutions.

#### **How does the Alternate Diploma apply to four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) calculations?**

- Students receiving a State-defined Alternate Diploma will count toward the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, regardless of the year they receive their diploma – provided they graduate within the time period for which the State ensures the availability of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities.
- This allows schools to serve those students without being penalized if they do not graduate within their four-year cohort – which may not be what's best for that individual student.

### **Additional Notes:**

#### **In our current system we have:**

- Inconsistency with federal law.
- Issues in uniformity/consistency/rigor of coursework for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- Inconsistency in the awarding of a high school diploma.

- An inability to truly ascertain the valuable and effective ways in which schools provide services.
- Barriers to providing quality transition services.
- “Ways of dealing” – holding students back in grades, retaining students as Juniors for multiple years, students taking the same course multiple years, etc.

**Benefits of a State-Defined Alternate Diploma:**

- Providing services that are more aligned to these students’ needs – academics, life skills, transition.
- Providing consistency – coursework, grading, expectations.
- Providing equal benefit – other options, such as a certificate of completion, do not carry the same weight as a state-defined alternate diploma.

**What could this look like in Oklahoma public schools?**

- Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are provided coursework that is appropriate and challenging.
- They are provided services that help them succeed in postsecondary life.
- They receive recognition for their accomplishments.
- Our State may determine the required courses necessary for an alternate diploma.
- Additional courses that reflect what these students need – Life Skills, Career Planning, etc.

**SB154 – RSA Exemption  
by Sen. Stanley & Rep. Lawson**

**Bill Synopsis:**

**Provides exceptions for certain school reading level requirements to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, requiring continuing reporting of learning process.**

**Background:**

This bill was requested from the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The intent of the bill is primarily to exempt certain students from RSA (Reading Sufficiency Act) and Dyslexia screening requirements, specifically students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP), students who are hearing or visually impaired whose primary expressive and/or receptive communication is sign language or whose primary form of written or read text is braille, and students whose primary expressive and/or receptive language is not English and has had less than one (1) school year of instruction in an English learner program. *Although this bill exempts these students it also provides accountability measures to ensure they make progress on measures of proficiency and language attainment through alternative means.*

In addition, this bill seeks to amend and clarify requirements of dyslexia screeners to align with current research and available screening tools. Under components of dyslexia screeners, “advanced phonemic awareness” has been changed to “phonemic awareness”. Schools have been required to use supplemental screening tools to meet this requirement. Phonemic awareness is sufficient to identify characteristics of dyslexia. “Developmental language” was removed because it is beyond the scope of screening measures and is not a characteristic of dyslexia. Other minor changes to the language have been made for clarity.

**Rationale:**

- Students in these categories interact and engage with written and spoken language in alternate forms.
- If the student is classified as one of the above groups and has been identified as needing additional support in written and/or spoken language, then they may be a consideration for an individual exemption.
- Since a significant amount of their instruction will be provided with an alternate mode of communication, these students may benefit from more targeted accountability means.

**Impacting students of these groups:**

- Students participating in the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP) utilizing alternate standards; (about 1138 students in K-3)
- The student’s primary expressive and/or receptive communication is sign language; (about 39 students in K-3)
- The student’s primary form of written or read text is braille; (about 51 students in K-3)
- The student’s primary expressive and/or receptive language is not English, the student is identified as an English Learner using a state-approved identification assessment, and the student has had less than one (1) school year of instruction in an English learner program. (approx. 8,158 in K-3)

**Accountability measures:**

- The intention is not to reduce requirements for these student groups but to provide a meaningful assessment for students that would provide the best information for their educators to make data-driven decisions.
- For students receiving an exemption, the school must report on measures of proficiency and language attainment through alternative means.
  1. Student progression towards OAAP reading essential elements;
  2. Student progression towards proficiency in sign language and reading comprehension;
  3. Student progression towards proficiency in braille and reading comprehension;
  4. Student progression towards proficiency in English as an additional language and reading comprehension.
- The school will ensure that this ongoing evidence is collected and able to be provided to parents/guardians, as requested or necessary.
- The State Board of Education will promulgate rules to determine measures of proficiency for students receiving exemptions.

# SUCCESS STORY



**OKLAHOMA**  
Rehabilitation  
Services

## Client Success story

### Client Name

Ashlei Miller

### Hometown

Ardmore

### Their story

Oklahoma School for the Deaf senior Ashlei Miller from Ardmore was the official spokesperson for Deaf Awareness Week in September.

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services selected Miller, age 17, to represent Oklahoma.

“Back in the past, people weren’t as aware, but now they are becoming more knowledgeable and more interested in Deaf culture, in our community and sign language,” Miller said.

American Sign Language is expressed by movements of the hands and body, and facial expressions. Deaf people in the United States and parts of Canada primarily use ASL. Other countries have developed their own sign languages.

“I think that all people should know that Deaf people are in this world,” Miller added. “Maybe they don’t need to learn sign (language) specifically, but (they should) at least know about us as a community and as a culture. Interpreters too.”



Miller was born in Oklahoma City and moved to Ardmore with her family when she was in 5th grade to benefit from better communication options at Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur.

“When I was in the public school, I didn’t feel like I had as many opportunities,” Miller said. “But here (at OSD) I felt connected. I was involved in sports. I could work. I could hang out with friends. I could do anything.”

When she is not enjoying her favorite English class or playing basketball and

soccer, Miller proudly represents OSD as the first official bison mascot at sports and community events. The new mascot was selected by a vote of students, staff and alumni in July 2021.

In April, Miller performed as the bison mascot at the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game, distributed t-shirts and signed the national anthem with other OSD students.

Her favorite role model is Lauren Ridloff, a Deaf actress who portrayed Makkari, the first Deaf superhero in

Marvel Studio's 2021 film "Eternals." "She's a wonderful role model Deaf character, and everyone knows her," Miller said. "It just shows that if she can do it, we can do it."

After graduation from OSD in May 2023, Miller plans to attend Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. She wants to become a basketball coach and teach sign language at a Deaf school or a public school. She is also interested in teaching about the Deaf community and culture.

---

## **DRS staff who helped change a client's life**

### **OSD staff**



# **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION REPORT**

## Commission Report February 2023

- Our final production numbers for 2022 are in. The VR/SBVI programs had 4,482 applications, which was an increase of 373 from 2021. The total number of employment plans written was 2,833, which was an increase of 64 from 2021. Total successful closures were 1,191, which was an increase of 173.
- Wages were up 3.3% from 2021 on successfully closed cases. The average was \$15.78 per hour. Leading the way was our unit in VR that covers McAlester, Idabel, and Poteau with an average of 19.25 per hour.
- The Division Administrator and Field Coordinators in VR continue to meet every other week to work on process improvement and VR progress.
- As mentioned in previous reports our Business Services Team hosted a Career Expo in October which was a big success, with DRS staff and businesses across the state.
- The Business Services team also hosted Facts and Snacks: Critical Occupations, a series of informative sessions by businesses for Job Seekers and Workforce System employees (DRS field staff, Workforce, Voc. Techs, etc.) to provide awareness and education to our job seekers about critical occupations in our State and to our Workforce workers so they can guide job seekers in their employment search. The Businesses have the spotlight to offer their expertise and employment opportunities. First session was done with Ditch Witch last year and the second on January 24 with Mercy Hospitals in a hybrid modality.
- Small Hiring Events: "Get it Right: Smart Recruiting and Career Event." A series of small job fairs with participation of five businesses with free booths and focused on them, their services and employment opportunities. We are putting especial emphasis in marketing these events with 3 weeks in advance. The first one will be done in Tulsa in February with the participation of Amazon and other 3 companies, and we are planning the second one with Ditch Witch in Stillwater.
- Business Advisory Councils: Our first Business Advisory Council was done in Green Country in January with the attendance of 18 businesses and partners. The next two will be South Central on February 23 and Central Region (OKC) on February 28.

- The VR DA and Business Coordinator, Yasmin Avila Guillen met with Department of Commerce staff to start planning a Career Expo targeted for May 2024.
- The Transition Team is in the process of planning career expos, BEST STEP with 28 camps statewide, 6 STEM camps, VIBE with students participating in their home community for STEP after they get done, and one BEST camp for DDS/DHS youth. We are partnering with Central workforce board and southern workforce board to pay the students wages at 10.00 an hour.
- The VR/SBVI Administrators have met with our AWARE Team regarding the online self-referral to begin the process of engaging potential applicants.
- The VR/SBVI Administrators, and Director Fruendt, continue to meet with Ron Vessell and John Walsh who are CSAVR consultants to TAC-QM, Westat. The meetings have been focused on employee engagement, recruitment, and retention.
- The VR/SBVI Administrators along with Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist Deborah Trout, gave a VR/SBVI overview presentation at the Walkability Summit in Clinton Oklahoma. There were also Business Services, Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Transition, and general VR/SBVI staff in attendance.
- The VR/SBVI Administrators, Employment Support Services staff, VR Field Coordinator Terri Murphy, SBVI Field Coordinator Teresa McDermott, and Transition Coordinator Renee Briscoe continue to meet with Developmental Disability Services staff, to streamline processes to serve clients of both programs. Most recently a meeting was held regarding sequencing of services that could result in a pilot program with VR/SBVI, and DDS.
- The Division Administrator conducted a Program Manager/Coordinator meeting at the Career Planning Center in November. The agenda addressed CSAVR, vacancies and recruitment, Developmental Disability Services waitlist, leadership responsibilities, Business Services and Transition.
- All VR were invited to participate in a Zoom meeting on Nov. 15h. Most of the time was spent focusing on performance, CSAVR, and data.
- The VR/SBVI Division Administrators continue to participate in 14c coalition meetings to focus on the phase out of subminimum wage.

- A discussion was held with Able Tech. employees and Field Coordinator Terri Williams regarding a possible partnership in Assistive Technology.
- Performance Measures – The VR/SBVI program Measurable Skill gain rate was 75.1%, which was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation among VR programs. The national rate is 43.0%. The employment rate after Quarter 2 for VR/SBVI was 50.8%. This is slightly below the 52.5% average. The median earnings variability after Quarter 2 for VR/SBVI was \$4,923.00. The national rate was \$4,776.00. The employment rate after Quarter 4 for VR/SBVI was 49.3%. The national average was 48.0%. The credential attainment rate for VR/SBVI was 44.4%, which was 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The national rate was 30.8%.
- The Frates Building re-location is almost complete. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services should be moving in this month.
- VR is looking at a possible relocation of the Midwest City office.
- Mobile Smiles, a volunteer Dental unit came to our VR Enid office in January and provided free dental services to many VR clients. This is the second year in a row that this has occurred.
- SSI/SSDI reimbursement totals – in 2021 the VR/SBVI programs brought in \$3,024,755.05, and in 2022 returned with \$3,026,459.84. Exceeding \$3 million in program revenue in back-to-back years is impressive as the \$3 million threshold had only been surpassed twice within the previous quarter-century.
- We continue to have many announcements out for positions. Currently there are 27 vacant counseling positions in the VR/SBVI program. There are 2,049 clients on those caseloads, which represent 25% of our clientele. We continue to see very few applicants, and recently we had at least two occasions people accept employment only to decline before their start date due to receiving a higher salary. This has created many difficulties for us regarding client services.

As always, I am honored to work with our staff. I believe the results this past year show a lot of determination, grit, and dedication. We have had many staff pull double duty, due to vacancies, and yet we still see positive results for our citizens with disabilities seeking employment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kinnison", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Kinnison, M.Ed., CRC, LPC-S  
VR Administrator  
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services

**OKLAHOMA  
REHABILITATION  
COUNCIL  
REPORT**

## **Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Report**

Since the last report, ORC has had its Quarterly Meeting on November 17 via Zoom.

The ORC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Annual Report was emailed to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Governor's Office on December 21, 2022. The electronic version can be found on [ORC's website](#).

The Council would like to thank the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), especially the Executive Team, and all the Committee Liaisons for their help in achieving all the objectives and activities in FFY22.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met on January 19, 2023, via Zoom.

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan, and all the activities and objectives are ongoing.

Regarding the Council appointments, there are four vacant positions, including:

- The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
- Two Business, Industry, and Labor (BIL)
- The Workforce Board representative. Steve Shepelwich resigned on January 25, 2022.

The ORC Program Manager (PM) has communicated the vacancies to the Council, and the Committees are working to find candidates for them. The PM will continue to follow up with the Director of Appointments to discuss these appointments.

### **Program and Planning (P&P) Committee**

The P&P Committee met on January 26, 2023, via Zoom.

The Committee was updated during the meeting about the Open Case Satisfaction Survey DRS is implementing this year. The P&P Committee assisted DRS with the Spanish translation of the survey and will review the results when available.

### **Policy and Legislative (P&L) Committee**

The P&L Committee met on January 19, 2023, via Zoom.

The Committee discussed the Council's participation in People with Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD). The ORC will have a booth at the event, and at least two members will volunteer to assist DRS with the Legislative Visits. This year,

ORC is proud to be a Sponsor at PWDAD and will pay the entrance fee of the attendees to the History Center's exhibits.

The Committee is also working on the 2022 ORC Legislative Primer, and once completed, it will be shared with all Oklahoma Legislators.

### **Transition Committee**

The Transition Committee met on January 26, 2023, via Zoom.

The Committee continues to promote increased student and family involvement in transition planning during FFY23 and plans to support the DRS Transition Unit's fantastic job throughout the State.

The Committee members are also working on updating the Transition Folders that were last updated in 2021. The dissemination of the 2021 folders was a success thanks to the DRS Transition Unit, and with the new version, the Committee hopes to share new valuable resources with students and parents in Elementary, Middle, and High School.

### **Employment Committee**

The Employment Committee met on January 19, 2023, via Zoom.

The Committee supports and collaborates with DRS's Business Services Program (BSP) by assisting them in their activities.

Among the FFY23 upcoming objectives, the Committee will expand the dissemination of employment resources and workplace learning, including but not limited to apprenticeships or internships for adult clients.

The ORC PM participated on behalf of the Council in the Critical Occupation in Health Care with Mercy webinar hosted by BSP on January 24.

The next ORC Quarterly Meeting will be on Thursday, February 16, at the DRS State Office.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Carolina Colclasure, ORC Program Manager*



**OKLAHOMA  
STATE  
INDEPENDENT  
LIVING COUNCIL  
REPORT**

## SILC Report to DRS Commissioners

February 13, 2023

\*\*Monthly stakeholder meetings are ongoing with our Federal Project Officer, ACL, NCIL, ILRU, APRIL and NASILC. Discussions revolve around Performance Reviews (PPR), and potential changes to the upcoming State Plan instrument. The Performance review for Centers was due by December 31, 2022 and the SILC Performance review was due by January 31, 2023. And it has been submitted.

\*\*NASILC (National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils) 'SILC Congress' conference will be March 6-8, 2023, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

\*\*The APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) organization is currently seeking a full-time Executive Director and has hire Bender Consulting to conduct the job search.

\*\*The APRIL Annual Conference in October will be in Anaheim, CA with dates to be determined.

\*\*Weekly/monthly meetings on the several National Boards for Independent Living all continue. These meetings include Executive Committee meetings as the Treasurer for APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) as well as the Finance Committee and the full APRIL Board meetings. The SILC E.D. also serves in the same capacity for NASILC (National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils) as Treasurer on the Executive Committee, Conference Planning and full Board Zoom meetings.

\*\*The SILC E.D., along with NASILC and ACL meet monthly and the current discussions brought to ACL center around what the SILC, DSE and CIL roles and responsibilities are. We are also talking about the HCBS Settings Rule and NASILC co-hosted a webinar on January 31, 2023 to discuss the rule and what States can expect. We were also reminded that going forward that NO SPIL will be approved without a figure in the I&E column of the 'resource plan' (budget). The law states that the DSE WILL contribute enough I&E funds to support the SILCs activities and administrative duties. The next State Plan cycle would begin in July 1, 2023 but ACL extended that date by one year while they work on the electronic reporting system. States are required to submit a document stating whether they want the extension and will continue to work off their current State Plan, or if an amendment needs to be made to the current State Plan for the upcoming year. SILC proposed making one change to the State Plan, to correct a line in regard to funding. 51% of the Center Directors have to sign agreeing to the changes made.

\*\*SILC has had many members removed from the Board and replaced. Those removed were Dr. Phillip Lewis, Kyle King, Rachel Allen, Tara Brown, Nancy Ward and Barbara Case. New members added are John Enns, Keith Wicks, Lynn Dunn, Tammy Jensen, Brent Bushey, Don Eck, Debbie Looper, Mark Ivy, and Carl Haws (Director of Dynamic Independence in Bartlesville). The SILC E.D. has had conversations with the Governor's office, ACL, OILP, ILRU and DRS in regard to this situation. Being left with no Executive Committee, new members chose John Enns to be the 'acting' Chair until an Election of Officers can be held, in accordance with SILC By laws. The new members also elected to keep Dr. Phillip Lewis and Kyle King as part of an 'Advisory Committee' since any member with historical working knowledge of SILC was removed.

\*\*SILC's work, under Dr. Phillip Lewis gained forward momentum with Senator Kevin Matthews introducing a bill asking for funding for SILC, as we receive no State appropriated funding.

\*\*SILC's March event for a Ted Talk style information session has also been put on hold since all members of that committee that were planning the event have been removed.

\*\*The next Quarterly meeting of SILC will be held April 28, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidna Trimmell  
SILC Executive Director

# COMMISSION MINUTES

**Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services  
Department of Rehabilitation Services  
In-Person and Videoconferencing  
Commission Minutes  
December 12, 2022**

Jace Wolfe, Commission Chair  
Wes Hilliard, Commission Vice Chair  
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard. Two Commissioners were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum.

**PRESENT**

Wes Hilliard, Commission Vice Chair  
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

**NOT PRESENT**

Jace Wolfe, Commission Chair

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

Carol Brown, Commission Assistant confirmed the Commission for Rehabilitation Services follows the Open Meetings Act.

**REPORTS**

**PRESENTATION OF 2023 OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES AWARD**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard presented the 2023 Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services Award to **Freddy Jones, VR Counselor in Ada**. Commission Vice-Chair presented Mr. Jones with an Oklahoma State flag that was flown over the Oklahoma State Capitol. Mr. Jones was nominated by Jeff Gaylor, Lisa Nessel, and McKenzie Ramer.

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard read what Jeff Gaylor had to say about Freddy Jones. Freddy is a VR counselor IV based in Ada who has been with DRS since 2016. In that time, he has maintained a caseload of over 150 clients, and has also assisted multiple other vacant caseloads in his unit while mentoring new counselors and interns over these years. Freddy consistently exceeds in almost every measure and has been an agency leader in many. He has also been instrumental in growing transition services for rural schools and communities across multiple counties in that time. He recently completed the Transformation Rehabilitation Leader certification, one of only two people selected for this training across the entire state. Freddy has positively impacted the lives of thousands of Oklahomans with disabilities and been a cornerstone of knowledge and support to his unit. He is also a dedicated and loving uncle. Page 57

Lisa Nessel in her nomination said Freddy is first and foremost an excellent counselor for his clients. He is available to them, and never hesitates to do his best. Freddy is also a good office employee; he puts his coworkers first and thinks about what is best for all involved. He is very policy-oriented and sticks to what policy states. He has been an asset to his unit.

McKenzie Ramer in her nomination said Freddy is a very hard worker and really cares about his client's and their success. He is a great leader and helps his coworkers with any assistance that they need. He works vacant caseloads because he cares about DRS client's and never complains about the extra work. He goes the extra mile to make sure his clients have what they need to be successful. He is very deserving of recognition of his hard work.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2022 AWARD**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Executive Director Fruendt to present her 2022 Executive Director Award.

Mrs. Fruendt presented her 2023 Award to the Human Resource's staff. These individuals are being recognized for the exceptional efforts they put forward in the transition of the agency to the Workday, Human Resource Information System. She asked for all these individuals to please come to the front of the room. All these individuals were heavily involved to one degree or another in the discovery, design and testing phases of the new system. It required work, over and above their normal duties. This started on August 15 of this year.

**Jonathon Cook** delivered a series of virtual demonstrations for all employees on posting time and leave; **April Story, Caryn Mitchell and Tommy Pham** received and worked several hundred emails, involving long hours that often continued into the wee hours of the morning; **Calvin Small** helped resolve issues with benefits; **Calvin and Cynthia Williams** worked with **Jonathon Cook** to create and deliver a virtual demonstration of the open enrollment process; **Kathy James, Paula Moon, Cynthia and Lizzie Chacko** dealt with the numerous questions and concerns that arose in employee pay; and **Paula** had enormous pressure to complete the payroll promptly without any errors to preclude delays to the entire state payroll. Last and certainly not least is **Tom Patt** a leader in this unit who put in as much hard work as any of his employees. He kept me and our staff fully informed. I would like for these individuals to come forward and so I can thank them as my **2022 Director's Award winners**.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director. Mrs. Fruendt had an "In remembrance" of Jerry Deibel. Mr. Deibel retired from DRS and was a VR Counselor.

#### *Meetings*

The Executive Director continued her meeting's schedule with staff, other state agencies and councils for November and early part of December. Mrs. Fruendt also

recognized Keith Tiller, DDS, and his group for the outstanding work they continue to do with Social Security Administration. She also reminded everyone of the People With Disability Awareness Day on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Mrs. Fruendt recognized Rod VanStavern, DRS Business Analyst, and David Unklesbay, OMES, who have been working on the consumer portal. They both gave a demonstration of how the consumer self-referral portal is to work. Rod has held some demonstrations with the Program Managers to get their feedback.

### **PRIORITY GROUP UPDATE**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Mark Kinnison, VR Director. Mr. Kinnison stated on December 7<sup>th</sup>, we released three hundred and six (306) clients on the wait list and totally cleared all of Priority Group I. As of today, there are fifteen (15) in Priority Group I, nine hundred and two (902) in Priority Group II and one hundred twenty-three (123) in Priority Group III, for a total of one thousand thirty (1030).

### **FINANCIAL STATUS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer, who reported the Financial Status Reports for FY 2022 and FY 2023 as of October 31, 2022.

### **PERSONNEL ACTIVITY**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Tom Patt, Human Resource Director, who reported on the personnel activity report as of November 30, 2022. The activity report also has current FTE status. Mr. Patt introduced a new employee Jacy Cheadle as a new Administrative Assistant.

### **SUCCESS STORY**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized McKenzie Ramer, VR Counselor who wanted to tell the Success Story of **Jennifer White**. McKenzie said Jennifer was an amazing client. She came to DRS at a difficult time in her life. She completed her associate degree with a four point (4.) and transferred to East Central University and maintained a four point until her last semester and had a three point nine (3.9) I am so proud of her. She was able to successfully get her goal job as a paralegal. She is now working on her master's degree in Indian law. Jennifer says "she is doing the work as a paralegal at Palmer law, I'm still running the ECU games on the weekends at the radio station, and I am now in the Christ for Recovery band at the First Assembly of God. We perform and sing to all of the addicts that are coming in for meetings through drug court Etc. I will be singing on their float in the parade this Saturday! I also start OU this spring. I'm getting a master's degree in Indian law. I will continue to climb and rise! I as always, still thank DRS for their programs from the bottom of my heart."

### **DRS PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVISIONS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Tina Calloway, Administrative Programs Officer. There was difficulty with her microphone and connection. Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard then recognized Stephanie Roe, DRS Project Coordinator. Mrs. Roe stated there are changes within chapter twenty-five (25) and these can be found on the DRS website. Any comments can be sent directly to Tina's attention. The Public

hearing will be on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 3 pm, in the state office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. There will also be a ZOOM option for people to join virtually.

### **VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND BLINNESS EMPOWERMENT (VIBE)**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized **Cheryl Snow and Julie Bailey**, SBVI Program Managers. Cheryl said VIBE is a five (5) weeklong program and is held at OSB in the summer or an SBVI office throughout the year. The program consists of two different areas, a transition program which is for client's aged sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) and an adult program for eighteen (18) and up. Clients are referred by their counselors. Most of the clients have just recently lost their vision. She and Julie explained the training and assistance given to the clients. On their last day in the class, the clients are asked to come forward and talk about what they have learned. There is usually never a dry eye in the room. Each client is given a certificate at the end of the class.

Julie then introduced **Kristen Flores**, a VIBE client. Kristen said she is very excited to be here, and the program was the best experience. Kristen said she is nineteen (19) and totally lost her sight at the age of eighteen and one-half (18 ½) due to Uveitis in glaucoma. She is amazed at all the work that goes into this program. Kristen said she learned there were others in the program that deal with the same things she does if not worse than what she has. Seeing how they go through it was an inspiration to her. When she started the program, she could barely walk down the driveway on her own. She said she is now full of information and learned so much. She enjoyed meeting all the new people, the assistive technology class, and the career exploration. When she got home, she could clean her house better, and she can even leave her house on her own. She said, "I was so proud of myself".

The Commissioners thanked Cheryl, Julie and Kristen for this presentation. Commissioner Hilliard said he had friend who had gone through the VIBE program, and it was a game changer for her. Thank you all for what you do for our clients.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked for a motion and vote to approve the November 14, 2022, Commission for Rehabilitation Services regular Meeting Minutes. Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked for a motion and vote to approve the November 14, 2022, minutes.

***Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Commissioner Hilliard to approve the November 14, 2022, minutes. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.***

#### **OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND DONATIONS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Rita Echelle, Superintendent of OSB. She reviewed the November 2022 OSB donation report. Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked for a motion and vote to approve the OSB November 2022 donations.



***Motion was made by Commissioner Hilliard and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to approve the November 2022 OSB donations. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.***

#### **OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF DONATIONS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Rita Echelle, Interim Superintendent of OSD. She reviewed the November 2022 OSD donation report. Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked for a motion and vote to approve the OSD November 2022 donations.

***Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Commissioner Hilliard to approve the November 2022 OSB donations. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked if there was any New Business. There was none.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard announced the date and location of next regular meeting of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services is **January 9, 2022**, at 10:30 a.m., DRS State office 3535 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked if there were any public comments. Jonathon Cook said there were none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Commissioner Hilliard to adjourn. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed***

**Respectfully submitted by Carol Brown, Commission Assistant  
January 9, 2023**

**OKLAHOMA  
LIBRARY FOR  
THE BLIND AND  
PHYSICALLY  
HANDICAPPED  
DONATION REPORT**

OLBPH Donation Report  
December 2022

**Donations under \$500**

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
12/1/2022	Enid Women of the Moose	\$ 50.00	216		
<b>Subtotal of Cash (Under \$500) Donated</b>		<u>\$ 50.00</u>			
<b>TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT</b>		<b>\$ 50.00</b>			

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL  
FOR THE BLIND  
MONTHLY  
DONATION  
REPORT**

# OSB DONATION REPORT

## December 2022 Donations

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
<b>Donations under \$500</b>					
12/14/2022	DRS / Christmas for two students	\$ 463.00	701		
12/15/2022	Zeta Alpha ESA / Needy fund	\$ 25.00	701		
12/20/2022	Colata Harlan / Needy fund	\$ 25.00	701		
<b>Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in December 2022</b>		<b>\$ 513.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Donations \$500 and over</b>					
12/8/2022	Patsi Nix Smith / plaque for walkway	\$ 1,000.00	216		
12/14/2022	TSET / 5K Sponsor	\$ 500.00	701		
12/15/2022	ESA Int'l OK / Christmas gifts	\$ 2,175.00	701		
12/15/2022	OK Assoc for Blind Athletes / SCASB	\$ 1,000.00	701		
12/15/2022	Patsi Nix Smith / FACS lab	\$ 5,000.00	216		
12/15/2022	Nix Foundation / FACS lab	\$ 15,000.00	216		
12/15/2022	Muskogee Lodge 28 (Dinner \$7,171 & Lodge \$7,829)	\$ 15,000.00	216		
12/21/2022	Delta Air Lines Foundation	\$ 500.00	216		
12/21/2022	Delta Air Lines Foundation	\$ 500.00	216		
<b>Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in December 2022</b>		<b>\$ 40,675.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS December - 2022</b>		<b>\$41,188.00</b>			

# OSB DONATION REPORT

## January 2023 Donations

Donations under \$500						
Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value	
1/11/2023	Gene Terril / Memory of Emma Saunders	\$ 50.00	701			
1/24/2023	Patsi Nix Smith / Framing	\$ 250.00	216			
<b>Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in January 2023</b>		<b>\$ 300.00</b>				<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Donations \$500 and over</b>						
1/5/2023	OKC Community Foundation (Kirschner)	\$ -	216			
1/5/2023	Frank Dirksen (Braille Challenge shirts)	\$ 60,000.00	701			
		\$ 512.50				
<b>Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in January 2023</b>		<b>\$ 60,512.50</b>				<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS January - 2023</b>		<b>\$60,812.50</b>				

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL  
FOR THE DEAF  
MONTHLY  
DONATION  
REPORT**

## OSD Donation Report December 2022 & January 2023

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
<b>Donations Under \$500.00</b>					
12/6	Trudy Rutledge			Hygiene products	128.18
12/19	Jody Harlan & Tim Wagner	25.00	70100	Needy Pupil	
12/19	DRS-Attn Carol Brown	353.00	70100	General Sorority for students Christmas	
12/19	Zeta ESA-Attn Karon Wheat	25.00	70100	General Sorority for students Christmas	
1/9	Gaila Wilson	145.00	70100/20300	Needy Pupil-Memory of Juanita Lytle Luttrell	
1/12	DonorsChoose	259.72		Grant for classroom supplies	
1/19	Kelly Waswo	50.00	70100/20300	General Sorority	
1/19	Lora Thompson	25.00	70100/20300	General Sorority	
1/23	Aletha Bolt	100.00	70100/20300	General Sorority	
1/23	Bethlehem Baptist Church	350.00	70100/20300	General Sorority	
1/23	Linda Jones	25.00	70100/20300	General Sorority	
	<b>Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00</b>	<b>1,357.72</b>		<b>Subtotal Property Under \$500.00</b>	<b>128.18</b>
<b>Donations Over \$500.00</b>					
12/19	ESA Sorority	2,500.00	70100	Sorority fund for Christmas gift cards	
	<b>Subtotal Cash Over \$500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>		<b>Subtotal Property Over \$500.00</b>	
	<b>Subtotal Cash Combined</b>	<b>3,857.72</b>		<b>Subtotal Property Combined</b>	<b>128.18</b>

**Total donation for December 2022/January 2023**

\$3,985.90