



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services

**Commissioners Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery,
and Wes Hilliard**

Regular Meeting
and Video Conferencing

3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK

November 13, 2023

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma - Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting**

November 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Commission link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602104546>

Phone: 1-669-254-5252
Webinar ID: 160 210 4546

Wes Hilliard, Commission Acting Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member
Dr. Janet Barresi, Commission Member

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** Wes Hilliard
- 2. Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act** Commission Assistant
- 3. Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the October 9, 2023, Commission for Rehabilitation Services regular meeting minutes** Wes Hilliard
- 4. Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the November 2, 2023 Commission for Rehabilitation Services special meeting minutes** Wes Hilliard
- 5. Executive Director Certificates of Appreciation and Report** Melinda Fruendt
 - A. Executive Director Certificates of Appreciation.
 - B. Executive Director's report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes Executive Director's meetings with staff, state meetings, White Cane Walk, update on 30th Anniversary celebration, several out-of-state conferences, updates on Federal

Reporting, AWARE, case reviews including Quality Assurance, and Statistical Research.

6. Presentation of NCSAB Trailblazer Award, Priority Group, Portal Referrals Update, and SBVI Report Tracy Brigham

- A. Presentation of NCSAB Trailblazer Award
- B. Priority Group Updates with possible Commission discussion. Report includes status of Priority Groups II and III.
- C. DRS Portal Referrals updates with possible Commission discussion.
- D. SBVI report with possible Commission discussion. Her report includes updates on field services, recruitment and outreach, BEP, Business Services, Transition, OLBPH and the Administrator's activities.

7. Chief Financial Officer's Report Kevin Statham

- A. Financial report with possible Commission discussion of FY 2023 as of September 30, 2023.
- B. Financial report with possible Commission discussion of FY 2024 as of September 30, 2023.

8. Human Resource Director's Report Tom Patt

- A. Personnel Activity report with possible Commission discussion, as of October 31, 2023. The activity report has the current FTE status.

9. Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Report Carolina Colclasure

- A. ORC report with possible Commission discussion. Miss Colclasure's report includes updates on ORC Committee Reports.
- B. ORC Strategic Plan.

10. Oklahoma School for the Blind Report and Donation Report Rita Echelle

- A. OSB report with possible Commission discussion. Mrs. Echelle's report includes updates on all school activities.
- B. OSB Donation Report

11. Discussion and possible action to accept OSB donations.

12. Oklahoma School for the Deaf Donation Report Dr. Heather Laine

13. Discussion and possible action to accept OSD donations.

- 14. Proposed Executive Session. Discussion and possible action to enter Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussing the nominations for the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services Award** Wes Hilliard
- 15. Proposed Executive Session. Discussion and possible action to enter Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) to discuss appointment of Commission Assistant.** Wes Hilliard
- 16. Vote to reconvene into Regular Session** Wes Hilliard
- 17. Discussion and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session** Wes Hilliard
 - A. Discussion and possible action to issue the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services Award.**
 - B. Discussion and possible action to appoint a Commission Assistant.**
- 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)**
Wes Hilliard
- 19. Announcements** Wes Hilliard
 - A. Next Meeting:
Monday, December 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
3535 NW 58th Street 2nd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
- 20. Public Comments** Public

Under Oklahoma Open Meeting Laws, the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services cannot respond to or discuss any matter not on today’s agenda.
- 21. Adjourn** Wes Hilliard

Oct. 9th Regular Meeting Minutes

**Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Department of Rehabilitation Services
In-Person and Videoconferencing
Commission Minutes
October 9, 2023**

Wes Hilliard, Commission Acting 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 Acting Chair Hilliard. Two Commissioners were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Wes Hilliard, Commission Acting Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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

LONGEVITY CERTIFICATE

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized ***Tracy Brigham for her 25 years*** of services to the State of Oklahoma.

Tracy Brigham began working as a Counselor for SBVI (VS back then) in 1998. She was promoted to a Programs Manager in 2007 where she supported staff in Enid and Tulsa for 10 years. She then was promoted to Project Coordinator in 2017 and soon promoted to Division Administrator in 2017 as well.

Tracy enjoys the outdoors and hiking. She loves OU football! She is a hard-worker, loyal friend, dedicated employee, and amazing co-worker/boss. Tracy enjoys spending time with her daughter, son-in-law, friends, and family. She also shares a passion for clean water in other countries has blessed hundreds of people with ability to drink clean water in a foreign country.

Tracy is an important member of our team, and her abilities and contributions are an important part of our continued success. She is a great asset at DRS and DRS is very lucky to have her on their team. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the agency and has a deep passion for serving individuals who are blind and/or visually impaired.

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard asked for a motion and vote to approve the September 11, 2023, Commission for Rehabilitation Services Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Acting Chair Hilliard to approve the September 11, 2023, minutes. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director.

Mrs. Fruendt had one Certificates of Appreciation to present. This certificate went to **Kay McDowell**, Central Department Services, Purchasing. Mrs. McDowell manages Travel for staff and clients of DRS. She often works past regular business hours ensuring our staff are well taken care of. She receives calls from staff after hours while they are traveling with issues such as cancelled flights, overbooked hotels, etc. She was nominated by Jonathan Woodward who receives numerous emails from staff weekly, thanking Kay for her effort on their behalf. He further states he is incredibly appreciative to have her on my team.

Mrs. Fruendt continued with her Executive Director's report. She had a remembrance for Loretta McGaskey of DDS, Stephanie Stephens of Ada VR and Susan Hawkins of Visual Services (now SBVI).

Mrs. Fruendt wanted to make the Commissioners aware of two Emergency Declarations DRS made to OMES Capitol Assets Management. One of the buildings on the OSD campus needed a new chiller, which is about \$90,000. The other was at OSB's Student Union hot water heater which could be anywhere from \$40,000 to \$45,000.

Mrs. Fruendt further reported the Oklahoma Works Conference was held October 4th – 6th. There were many employees in attendance, and it was a great conference. The happiest moment at the conference was when an employee of SBVI, **Trey Lewis, SBVI Counselor**, was awarded for doing excellent work partnering with our Workforce partners. Trey is a SBVI counselor in Oklahoma City. He is an Oklahoma School for the Blind graduate, and his service dog Shatner was with him as he received his award.

On Friday, the 6th of October, DRS hosted the Human Services Cabinet Meeting here in our conference room at the State Office. Human Services Secretary Deborah Shropshire is allowing each agency to talk about what they do and to get to know each other better. Ours was the first to host. Kudos to Janie Ball for her work in making this a beautiful hosting experience.

Mrs. Fruendt gave updates on programs at the Oklahoma School for the Blind. One was the Western Day at Haskell. She encouraged everyone to try attend, if ever possible. It is put on each year, and she thought this was the 15th year. She also gave updates on her meetings for the months of September and October.

The Executive Director reported the ETA-9189 WIOA Report for PY22 was submitted prior to the October 1st deadline. She gave updates on the API Portal Project, program Standards, and Statistical Research.

PRIORITY GROUP, PORTAL REFERRALS UPDATE AND SUCCESS STORY

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Mark Kinnison.

Update on Priority Groups: Priority Group I is still open. Currently there are nine hundred ninety-three (993) in Priority Group II, and two hundred and three (203) in Priority Group III with a total of one thousand one hundred ninety-six (1,196).

Update on portal referrals: Currently there are four hundred eight-seven (4887) referrals, and one hundred fifteen (115) new cases.

Mark Kinnison presented ***Victoria Middleton, VR Counselor to give the success story on Ethan Smith***. Ethan is an Edmond North senior who participated in the DRS' Transition's BEST Step summer job training an employment program in the summer of 2023. Ethan has autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, hearing loss and intellectual disabilities. He worked as a sacker at Uptown Grocery in Edmond. The Store Manager Shane Kennedy wanted to hire Ethan to work on a permanent, part-time basis, yet had to wait due to budget reasons. During the month Ethan was off, Shane received 20 phone calls from customers asking, "where is that kid who is always smiling"? Ethan is back to work at Uptown Grocery and happy to be there. Uptown Grocery employs other workers with disabilities, one who has worked there for 17 years. Ethan is going to star in a DRS Public Service Announcement. Ethan's proud parents are Christina and James Smith.

FINANCIAL

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer to present the Financial Status report for FY 23 and FY 24 as of August 31, 2023.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Tom Patt. Mr. Patt reported on the Personnel activity as of September 30, 2023.

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF REPORT AND DONATION REPORT

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Dr. Heather Laine.

Mrs. Laine gave an overview of OSD and upcoming events. She also reported on updates on Family and Early Childhood Services (FECS), Outreach ad Accessibilities Department, Special Education Department, Instructional Program and Student Life.

Mrs. Laine presented the September 2023 Donation report.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Acting Chair Hilliard to approve the Oklahoma School for the Blind September 2023 Donation report. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION REPORT

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Jody Harlan. Mrs. Harlan report on all the media releases her department has written and/or covered in the last six months.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES AWARD

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard announced nominations are now open for the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services Award, as authorized by 74 O.S. 2011, 166.8 and the Open Meeting Act 25 O.S. 307 (B) (7). This award is for Employee Performance Recognition. It is to recognize outstanding job performance and productivity within the State Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Live link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/23OKDRSComAward>

All nominations will be reviewed by the Commissioners for their selection process.
Cutoff date of 11/1.

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND DONATION REPORT

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard recognized Tonya Givens, OSB Business Manager. Mrs. Givens presented the OSB September 2023 Donation Report.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Acting Chair Hilliard to approve the September 2023, OSB donations. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Acting Chair Hilliard and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to convene to an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Performance Review of the Executive Director. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Acting Chair Hilliard and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to convene to an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Performance Review of the Commission Assistant. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion and possible action pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(1), for the purpose of discussing the Performance Review and the salary of the Executive Director.

Discussing and possible action pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (1), for the purpose of discussing the Performance Review of the Commission Assistant.

VOTE TO RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

Motion was made by Acting Chair Hilliard and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to reconvene to an Executive Session. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Commissioner Flannery announced the Commission is going to submit a DRS 2023 Employment Engagement Survey to all staff. She further asked all staff encourage co-workers to participate. The survey will be brief and will have a short turn around response time.

NEW BUSINESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Acting Chair Hilliard announced the date and location of next regular meeting of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services is **November 13, 2023**, at 10:30 a.m., DRS State office 3535 NW 58th Street, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nov. 2 Special Meeting Minutes

**Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Department of Rehabilitation Services
Career Planning Center
5813 S. Robinson Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 72109
November 2, 2023**

Commission Minutes

Wes Hilliard, Commission Acting Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

Sign Language Interpreters were provided for public accessibility

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:25pm. by Commission Acting Chair Hilliard. Two Commissioners were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Wes Hilliard, Commission Acting Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Commission Assistant confirmed compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

ACTION ITEMS

DRS Oklahoma School for the Deaf – Emergency Declaration

Commissioner Hilliard recognized Grant Moak, Legal Counsel for DRS. Mr. Moak explained an action was required to ratify the emergency declaration issued by the Executive Director, Melinda Fruendt, on August 11, 2023, regarding completion of renovation of Blattner Hall at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery to ratify the emergency declaration. Commissioner Hilliard seconded the motion. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Proposed Executive Session. Discussion and possible action to enter Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for the purpose of interviewing applicants for the position of Commission Assistant .

Motion was made by Commissioner Hilliard to go into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing possible assistants to the Commission. Commissioner Flannery seconded the motion. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Reconvene to regular session

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery to reconvene into regular session. Commissioner Hilliard seconded the motion. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion Passed.

**Discussion and possible action to appoint a Commission Assistant.
*No action taken.***

ADJOURNMENT

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

**Respectfully submitted by Interim Commission Assistant
November 7, 2023**

APPROVED BY COMMISSION ON

Executive Directors Report

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
November 13, 2023

Executive

October

10 – Presented at Representative Hefner’s Interim Study 1082 on Workforce Development and Vocational Rehabilitation for students with disabilities; Melinda Bunch and Janie Fugitt with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment Support Services unit, presented at Senator Deck’s Interim Study on phasing out the use of the 14c certificates and paying workers with disabilities subminimum wages.

11 – Oklahoma Inclusive Post-Secondary Education update meeting.

12 – Television interview at KOCO-5 with Shelby Cashman, morning show about National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

13 – Participated in white cane safety education and awareness walk in downtown Oklahoma City.

17 – DRS 30th Anniversary Celebration – a huge success!!!

19 – Governor’s Employment Awards event.

24-27 – State of the Art Conference, Colorado Springs, CO. Presented on Partnerships and Engagement: Harnessing the Power of Collaboration. Presentation with Julie Lackey, Director, Oklahoma IPSE Alliance and Founder of LeadLearnLive.

28-Nov 1 – Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Fall Conference, Directors Meeting and Leadership Forum, Savannah, GA.

November

3 – Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth Meeting; Human Services Cabinet Meeting.

6 – Oklahoma Inclusive Post-Secondary Education update meeting.

7 – Rehabilitation Services Administration VR/SBVI Dashboard Meeting; VR/SBVI Performance Meeting; OKIPSE Planning meeting between IPSE, DRS, DHS, and Higher Education IDD College Program Directors.

8 – Meeting with Core Partner Directors regarding workforce development planning.

9 – Oklahoma Works Alumni Celebration.

10 – Veterans Day – DRS Thanks all our Veterans!

13 – Commission for Rehabilitation Services Meeting.

Process Improvement (PI)

Federal Reporting

ETA-9169 WIOA Annual Report for PY22 was submitted before Oct 1 deadline.

AWARE

The AWARE team is currently:

Correcting and preparing data for the RSA-911 data report due in November 2023.

Testing and preparing for upgrade to the AWARE System’s, Fall release

Working with DRS Purchasing to set up a p-card purchase process for client services.

Working with FSD Federal Accounting staff to develop data reports to assist with Period of Performance reporting.

Continuing work on the joint project between the University of Missouri and the University of Oklahoma to import Pre-Employment Transition Services data into the AWARE system. Current timeline is to have data in time for the next RSA-91 reporting due in February 2024.

Case Review – Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance team conducted a case review of “closed” cases for the month of October for purpose of evaluating Federal compliance.

Quality Assurance/Field Coordinator quarterly meeting conducted to address questions and concerns noted by the Field and Review Specialists.

Program Standards, Statistical Research

The research staff provided the ADA accommodation survey results to the ADA coordinator.

The staff continues to work on replicating Tableau reports in Power BI.

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

**Presentation of NCSAB
Trailblazer Award, Priority
Group, Portal Referrals Update,
and SBVI Report**

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Commission Report November 13, 2023

SBVI and VR Division Administrators have been meeting with John Walsh and Ron Vessels from the VRTAC-QM on our on-going initiative, Leading Change. We recently held training with the Change Team Leads and then held orientation for the Change Teams that were selected. The focus areas are: Recruitment and Retention, Process Improvement and Organizational Change and Culture. The teams will move forward with their separate team meetings and we are looking forward to new ideas

Field Services

Trey Lewis, Rehabilitation Teacher in Oklahoma City, is named to the list of the Top 50 most Influential Young Professionals in Oklahoma City by the OKC Young Professionals Group, which is an organization with which Trey has been involved for some time. Trey has been instrumental in helping clients in both the Older Blind and Employment Programs to acquire daily living skills to remain independent and achieve their goals. He also recently received a front-line staff award at the Workforce Partner's Conference on October 6th.

New Employee Academy was held on September 13 and 14 with multiple SBVI and VR leaders instructing throughout the academy.

Workforce Partners Conference was held October 4, 5 and 6 and attended by many employees in SBVI, VR and Executive.

Counselor Day was held at OSB on October 12. SBVI Counselors spent the day meeting with and getting to know students, OSB staff and PreETS Specialists.

White Cane Awareness Day was October 15, recognized by DRS with an annual ceremony and walk downtown on October 13. There were over 50 in attendance to bring awareness to white cane laws and safety. SBVI O&M Specialists organize the event which includes proclamations from OKC Mayor Holt and Governor Stitt.

DRS celebrated its 30th anniversary of becoming an independent agency on October 17 with a fall festival. Staff, clients and former employees attended and enjoyed food trucks, games, entertainment by DRS staff, OSD cheerleaders, OSB jazz band and more. Speakers included Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell, Director Fruendt, OKDHS Hope Ambassador Tammy Williams, Secretary of Human Services Dr. Deborah Shropshire, and SBVI and VR Division Administrators Tracy Brigham and Mark Kinnison.

Tulsa VIBE took place the week of October 23-27 with 9 clients attending.

Rehabilitation Teachers in the NE area of the state have been working to get Blindness Support Groups started and have been successful with the following and recent dates:
Tulsa Support Group, November 8, 2023, at Nathan Hale Library at 1 – 2 pm
Sapulpa Support Group, November 21, 2023, at Sapulpa Senior Community Center at 1 – 2 pm
Owasso Support Group, November 20, 2023, at Owasso Community Center at 1 – 2 pm

Community Events/Meetings

Lincoln County job fair; Chickasaw Nation Ada Area Hiring Event; Northpark Mall Health Fair; Ss. Anne's Retirement Craft and Health Fair; Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Vocational Rehabilitation Program meeting; Oklahoma Public Health Association (OPHA) conference;

Presentations

Cheryl Snow, Julie Bailey and Deitra Woody presented the VIBE program at the national AVRT Conference in Maine; Meridian Technology Center

Vacancies

Counselors in Ada, Enid, Weatherford, OKC and McAlester
Assistive Technology Specialist announced for any location statewide

New Hires

2 Rehabilitation Technicians, one in Ada and one in Oklahoma City, with start dates early November (who couldn't be named as of this report)

Recruitment and Outreach

Attended and had an informational table at the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association(NRCA) conference in Little Rock, AR

Exhibited DRS career opportunities at: the WORKlahoma Job Fair; DRS's 30th Anniversary Event; and the Dale Rogers Training Center Ability-Focused Job Fair

Represented DRS as an employer at career fairs at Oral Roberts University, Oklahoma City University, Pittsburg State University and Northeastern State University with more scheduled.

BEP

Chris Brannaman, Operations Coordinator (detailed to duty) has completed the Randolph-Sheppard Staff Training through Mississippi State University National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision. He has attended his first Elected Committee/Licensed Vendor Annual Conference to share his vision for the program and has also attended his first NCSAB training conference to include the Randolph-Sheppard Day with RSA.

New Hire as of November 1- Corbin Burnham, Vending Machine Technician. Corbin has been working for the BEP as a Galt temp for over a year providing maintenance type work alongside the BEP employees.

There are additional interested applicants in the Vending Tech and Warehouse Operations positions. The BEP OC is working to clear applicants off of Workday with HR assistance and attempting to fill positions as quickly as possible. In the period of time without in-house Vending Machine Technicians, the Business Manager and BEP Consultants have been doing a great job of keeping up with work orders and making repairs, as they can and have the knowledge, to avoid delays for the LV businesses.

As of October 25, 22 hours of active participation have been accomplished with the Elected Committee of Managers (ECM) and Licensed Vendors (LV's), including a quarterly meeting and 7 site visits to discuss BEP Decisions, processes, and future movement.

5 Site Surveys have been completed since September 1.

2 new facilities have been opened: Holdenville, DOC and Colbert Point of Entry.

Three members of the BEP staff and 1 LV attended Mini-Blast, which is a training conference geared toward improving LV operations, State Licensing Agency (SLA) & LV resolutions to issues, latest updates on current events with the Randolph-Sheppard Act and upcoming legal strategies. BEP Operations Coordinator (OC) gave a short presentation on Oklahoma's RSA-15 for FY 2022 at the Blast.

BEP OC attended and presented at the Oklahoma Council for the Blind conference on 9/15 to give pertinent information on the program to attending members.

Business Services

Alisha Norwood has been promoted to a position as a Job Placement Specialist in the northwest part of the state. She was previously a Rehabilitation Technician for SBVI in Enid and will still be located in Enid.

Tina Joseph has been promoted to an Administrative Assistant position for the Business Services Unit. She was previously a Rehabilitation Technician for SBVI in Tulsa and will remain in Tulsa.

The Business Services Team presented and participated in a panel for the Oklahoma Council of the Blind's annual convention in September.

September 27- Facts and Snacks Critical Occupations with CompSource Mutual OKC. Attendance of 10 people in person and 30 people online. Workforce Boards, partners, and job seekers were invited to learn about this type of occupation and share the employment opportunities this insurance company has and wants to offer to the Workforce System and our clients.

October 6- NDEAM inclusive hiring event with Mercy Hospitals. BSU staff assisted Mercy in this event and DRS clients were exclusively invited to attend and had interviews on-site. There was a constant flow of DRS job Seekers coming to the event and interviewing for their job opportunities. We are expecting to have news about hiring.

October 24- Participated as a vendor at the Dale Rogers Training Center Ability Focused Job Fair

Transition

Tracy Keeley is a new member of the Transition Team and will serve the north side of the state. Tracy has more than 20 years of experience as an educator, holding a Master of Library and Information Science Degree from OU and a Master of Education Degree in School Administration from Northeastern State University. Tracy is housed in the VR 67 Tulsa office.

Renee Briscoe, Judi Goldston with OU PreETS and Yolanda Scott with COWIB submitted information to apply for a P3 Waiver Proposal through the Department of Labor and was awarded one of the pilots in the amount of \$. The purpose is to increase coordination across federal agencies and programs and to promote a more integrated system to allow communities the flexibilities needed to support disconnected youth.

Renee Briscoe worked on another proposal that resulted in a grant award of just under \$10M with COWIB and other partners and the Department of Education (Lori Chesnut) as the Project Director. The purpose of the funding is to support innovative activities aimed at increasing competitive integrated employment for youth and other individuals with disabilities. The primary focus is on the creation of systemic approaches to transition services for children and youth ensuring that required partners are actively collaborating to support coordinated transition processes.

23 Pre-Employment Transition Specialists currently working with students and schools on providing PreETS services in over 220 schools. The 4 work skills trainers through the PreETS contract are increasing inclusion in the communities and competitive integrated workplaces. COWIB also has 2 of these workers for the school year and they will be working with the IPSE programs as well as other PreETS programs around the state. This will allow students work during high school and gain work experience with some supports.

National Center for Disability Education and Training(NCDET) and DRS continue the Peer Mentoring Program, adapted from Peer Mentoring Works, for mentees (high school students) age 16-21 and mentors aged 18-26.

There are 303 School Work Study (SWS) Contracts as of October 23, 2023. Chris Compton will now be handling all SWS contracts and updating information.

There are 14 Work Adjustment Training (WAT) Contracts as of October 23, 2023. There is additional interest from Bios, 4RKids, Sand Springs, Gatesway, Bethany, Durant and some rural area schools.

There are 10 Project Search sites for 2023-24 with new opportunities in Lawton and Durant coming soon.

Career Exploration Program is now PreETS under the OU umbrella.

This program is growing in the Northeastern part of the state including Bristow, Cleveland, Cushing, Davenport, Depew, Drumright, Hominy, Kellyville, Kiefer, Mannford, Mounds, Oilton, Olive, Prue, Ripley, Sapulpa, West Side Christian Academy, and Yale in partnership with the Central Technology Center. Kiamichi Tech Center began PreETS at their campuses in August 2023. Kiamichi has 9 campuses, which are reaching some rural areas – Talihina, Durant, McAlister, Idabel, Stigler, Poteau, Hugo, Wilburton, and Atoka and they have 9 PreETS Specialists providing these services to potentially eligible and DRS clients.

OSU-IDD - Self-Determination Training Program has completed year 1. There are currently 12 participants in the program.

ABLE Tech has developed and began the micro-credentialing contract with DRS. PreETS Specialists are involved to be able to share this opportunity with youth.

Oklahoma Inclusive Postsecondary Education – (OKIPSE)

DRS has signed contracts to support clients in the programs below:

- OU SoonerWorks
- NSU RiverHawks
- OSU Opportunity Orange
- USAO in Chickasha – Neuro Diversity program

DRS is working with Tulsa Technology Centers Competitive Employability Readiness Training (CERT) Culinary participants continue in the hospitality program to learn how to work as a

culinary assistant. The program provides technical training and experience in a variety of service occupations through the HospitAbilities curriculum.

DRS also continues to work with A New Leaf, the National Peer Mentoring Project, OCCC Career Transitions and Tulsa Community College to provide services.

DHS/OJA/DMHSAS – MOUs

Creating opportunities to provide support and services to students in DHS and OJA custody. Other partners include homeless alliances, Mental Health, organizations for foster youth and shelters in OKC and Tulsa.

Sky's the Limit Communications, is contracted and working with students (juniors and seniors) from the School for the Blind to promote independence. During the ACE Advocacy Academy Self-Advocacy Nuts and Bolts, participants will grow in confidence, independence, and skill as they practice essential elements of self-advocacy. They will do some music and literacy for OSB students this fall 2023.

Summer Programs: BEST STEP, STEM, VIBE, Camp Works-OU

In the process of application and flyer improvements/revisions, finding locations, planning and also looking to add Quartz Mountain as a Work Based Learning opportunity as well.

Reminder to subscribe to the Transition Newsletter. Currently there are 2,098 subscribers!

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/OKDRS/subscriber/new>

Always needing success stories so please send leads to Tracy, Kevin or Chris for the success story to be highlighted in the newsletter.

TC Meetings

BEST STEP staff meetings; COWIB; NCSAB Transition Committee; Joining Forces Planning; Downs Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma; OCCY; Project Search; Cimarron Public Transit board meetings; Counselor/Tech check in; Career Pathways; OTC; NTACTION: CTE/SpEd/VR; PreETS Blindness CoP; Autism Foundation of OK; Collaborate for Change; RSA – OPC Advisory Board; CREOKS DRS WAT contract for OSB; Pre-VR; OU special education / transition department; OKIPSE; Cape Youth; CSAW; CSAT; DDS / DRS; AbleTech Micro-Credentialing; OU Zarrow; DCDT; GICH Employment, Education and Training Subcommittee Meeting/IPS Steering Committee

OLBPH

Lacey Downs has been promoted to APO and is handling all building operations including PCard purchasing. Lacey is also continuing as the braille transcriber.

The National Library Service (NLS) visited the library in October to discuss equipment inventory, collection management, processes and services.

Duplication on Demand (DoD) SFY '24

as of 09/23 = 92,162

as of 10/23 = 112,522

AIM Center Students Served SFY '24

as of 09/23 PreK-Grade 12 = 519 Birth-3 Years = 256

as of 10/23 PreK- Grade 12 = 601 Birth-3 Years = 283

Division Administrator Activities: SBVI White Cane Day; Randolph-Sheppard Priority Meeting; Governors Awards of Excellence; DRS/DDS meetings; ORC; ORC Executive Committee; Governor's Council on Workforce Development; NCSAB Conference Planning; Administrative Rules ORC Overview; Performance Review Meeting; NCSAB Executive Committee Meetings; Monitoring CoP; CSAVR Customer Service for Adults committee; Council of State Administrators in Vocational Rehabilitation; National Council of State Agencies for the Blind; SWS/WAT Meeting; BEP Contracts meeting; VR TAC-QM Change Leader training; VR TAC-QM Change Team Member Orientation; New Employee Academy; 14C CoP; Randolph-Sheppard Calls; FC/PM Meetings; BEP Training Curriculum; Zarrow Mental Health Symposium; DRS/DDS Sequencing of Services; Fee for Service Meeting with OU; Oklahoma Works Conference; DRS 30th Celebration; Accommodations Request Workflow Meeting

Report respectfully submitted by Tracy Brigham, SBVI Division Administrator

November 13, 2023

Chief Financial Officer's Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs Agency Summary							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	87,735,007.00	52.2%	74,867,202.73	475,945.41	85.9%	327,238.31	86.2%
Travel	1,269,239.00	0.8%	1,062,739.89	93,064.65	91.1%	28,652.75	93.3%
General Operating	23,775,956.96	14.2%	16,164,194.78	1,944,085.35	76.2%	3,988,810.06	92.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,899,869.50	1.1%	807,087.02	196,151.68	52.8%	199,133.79	63.3%
Client / General Assistance	44,442,760.00	26.5%	26,316,771.63	2,151,143.55	64.1%	5,658,893.50	76.8%
Indirect Cost	8,822,657.47	5.3%	8,822,657.48	(1,450.41)	100.0%	1,450.40	100.0%
Total	167,945,489.93	100.0%	128,040,653.53	4,858,940.23	79.1%	10,204,178.81	85.2%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs							
Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	25,783,092.00	33.7%	20,723,810.27	88,898.39	80.7%	221,572.31	81.6%
Travel	835,400.00	1.1%	778,616.08	65,913.39	101.1%	320.00	101.1%
General Operating	9,675,358.94	12.6%	6,794,737.00	1,056,980.19	81.2%	1,359,961.38	95.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	679,781.00	0.9%	298,981.50	6,740.99	45.0%	0.00	45.0%
Client / General Assistance	36,357,760.00	47.5%	18,839,468.89	2,015,587.00	57.4%	5,354,873.62	72.1%
Indirect Cost	3,218,874.06	4.2%	3,218,874.06	(1,450.41)	100.0%	1,450.41	100.0%
Total	76,550,266.00	100.0%	50,654,487.80	3,232,669.55	70.4%	6,938,177.72	79.5%
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	23,222,094.00	32.3%	18,514,962.14	57,975.13	80.0%	30,310.99	80.1%
Travel	824,500.00	1.1%	763,173.46	64,574.58	100.4%	221.31	100.4%
General Operating	8,717,782.83	12.1%	6,307,480.56	910,005.26	82.8%	1,196,252.74	96.5%
Office Furniture & Equipment	509,281.00	0.7%	179,584.92	5,231.42	36.3%	0.00	36.3%
Client / General Assistance	35,634,667.00	49.6%	18,447,180.27	1,994,900.60	57.4%	4,834,175.33	70.9%
Indirect Cost	2,963,715.17	4.1%	2,963,715.17	(1,450.41)	100.0%	1,450.41	100.0%
Total	71,872,040.00	100.0%	47,176,096.52	3,031,236.58	69.9%	6,062,410.78	78.3%

**Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 23**

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Blind							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	6,684,882.00	71.8%	6,629,410.12	16,294.29	99.4%	8.04	99.4%
Travel	115,000.00	1.2%	92,059.47	10,562.76	89.2%	0.00	89.2%
General Operating	1,237,398.65	13.3%	986,339.08	84,280.83	86.5%	36,690.07	89.5%
Office Furniture & Equipment	523,300.00	5.6%	282,085.43	100,726.70	73.2%	2,818.14	73.7%
Client / General Assistance	57,000.00	0.6%	48,306.66	936.86	86.4%	0.00	86.4%
Indirect Cost	694,958.78	7.5%	694,958.78	0.00	100.0%	0.00	100.0%
Total	9,312,539.43	100.0%	8,733,159.54	212,801.44	96.1%	39,516.25	96.5%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Deaf							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,722,750.00	49.5%	6,964,439.22	62,897.90	91.0%	7,807.90	91.1%
Travel	146,439.00	0.9%	101,245.34	8,357.72	74.8%	800.00	75.4%
General Operating	5,843,886.24	37.5%	3,450,685.12	446,024.12	66.7%	1,681,153.73	95.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	566,051.50	3.6%	209,420.01	62,587.10	48.1%	146,263.80	73.9%
Client / General Assistance	498,000.00	3.2%	210,284.07	39,003.07	50.1%	88,348.51	67.8%
Indirect Cost	814,820.76	5.2%	814,820.76	0.00	100.0%	0.00	100.0%
Total	15,591,947.50	100.0%	11,750,894.52	618,869.91	79.3%	1,924,373.94	91.7%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs Disability Determination Division							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	39,833,335.00	71.2%	33,534,385.33	293,825.60	84.9%	32,327.48	85.0%
Travel	89,300.00	0.2%	35,249.78	2,878.85	42.7%	27,532.75	73.5%
General Operating	4,326,108.82	7.7%	2,877,826.60	201,319.52	71.2%	655,265.19	86.3%
Office Furniture & Equipment	83,237.00	0.1%	7,606.74	0.00	9.1%	50,051.85	69.3%
Client / General Assistance	7,530,000.00	13.5%	7,218,712.01	95,616.62	97.1%	215,671.37	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,088,019.18	7.3%	4,088,019.18	0.00	100.0%	0.00	100.0%
Total	55,950,000.00	100.0%	47,761,799.64	593,640.59	86.4%	980,848.64	88.2%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs DRS Support Services							
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2023 Expenditures in FY 2024	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,710,948.00	73.2%	7,015,157.79	14,029.23	91.2%	65,522.58	92.0%
Travel	83,100.00	0.8%	55,569.22	5,351.93	73.3%	0.00	73.3%
General Operating	2,693,204.31	25.6%	2,054,606.98	155,480.69	82.1%	255,739.69	91.6%
Office Furniture & Equipment	47,500.00	0.5%	8,993.34	26,096.89	73.9%	0.00	73.9%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	5,984.69	0.1%	5,984.69	0.00	100.0%	(0.00)	100.0%
Total	10,540,737.00	100.0%	9,140,312.02	200,958.74	88.6%	321,262.27	91.7%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of September 30, 2023

Personnel

Salary Expense

Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc

FICA-Retirement Contributions

Travel

Travel - Agency Direct

Travel - Reimbursements

General Operating

AFP Encumbrances

Bond Indebtness and Expenses

Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation

General Operating

Inter/Intre 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

Office Furniture & Equipment

Library Equipment & Resources

Office Furniture & Equipment

Client / General Assistance

Social Service and Assistance Payments

Indirect Cost

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs Agency Summary						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	96,935,137.00	52.6%	20,007,182.52	20.6%	76,363,831.62	99.4%
Travel	1,256,450.00	0.7%	172,379.52	13.7%	74,765.06	19.7%
General Operating	29,113,926.00	15.8%	3,121,476.31	10.7%	13,771,177.10	58.0%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,623,068.50	0.9%	128,598.35	7.9%	38,639.55	10.3%
Client / General Assistance	44,262,703.00	24.0%	6,019,793.49	13.6%	33,894,062.02	90.2%
Indirect Cost	11,243,273.00	6.1%	2,524,984.49	22.5%	8,718,288.51	100.0%
Total	184,434,557.50	100.0%	31,974,414.68	17.3%	132,860,763.86	89.4%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs						
Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	30,477,753.00	36.8%	5,803,100.07	19.0%	24,307,984.01	98.8%
Travel	882,950.00	1.1%	123,273.45	14.0%	2,848.56	14.3%
General Operating	9,993,904.00	12.1%	1,674,829.81	16.8%	6,904,875.03	85.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	736,508.00	0.9%	52,245.81	7.1%	12,860.22	8.8%
Client / General Assistance	36,288,703.00	43.8%	4,370,862.85	12.0%	28,006,737.87	89.2%
Indirect Cost	4,467,141.00	5.4%	983,219.27	22.0%	3,483,921.73	100.0%
Total	82,846,959.00	100.0%	13,007,531.26	15.7%	62,719,227.42	91.4%
<i>Vocational Rehabilitation Grant</i>						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	27,758,218.00	35.5%	5,230,346.26	18.8%	22,161,256.64	98.7%
Travel	864,000.00	1.1%	121,011.13	14.0%	2,848.56	14.3%
General Operating	9,263,446.00	11.8%	1,607,900.71	17.4%	6,343,911.76	85.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	543,960.00	0.7%	13,840.33	2.5%	0.00	2.5%
Client / General Assistance	35,655,667.00	45.6%	4,319,482.17	12.1%	27,489,028.13	89.2%
Indirect Cost	4,160,619.00	5.3%	910,041.43	21.9%	3,250,577.57	100.0%
Total	78,245,910.00	100.0%	12,202,622.03	15.6%	59,247,622.66	91.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,437,421.00	74.7%	1,729,886.69	23.3%	5,680,056.93	99.6%
Travel	105,000.00	1.1%	14,419.30	13.7%	525.00	14.2%
General Operating	1,326,800.00	13.3%	222,283.85	16.8%	968,781.67	89.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	246,027.00	2.5%	50,045.21	20.3%	25,779.33	30.8%
Client / General Assistance	76,000.00	0.8%	5,798.21	7.6%	0.00	7.6%
Indirect Cost	761,472.00	7.7%	187,215.17	24.6%	574,256.83	100.0%
Total	9,952,720.00	100.0%	2,209,648.43	22.2%	7,249,399.76	95.0%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,200,943.00	41.9%	1,805,726.58	19.6%	7,369,581.12	99.7%
Travel	133,000.00	0.6%	10,653.38	8.0%	37,650.00	36.3%
General Operating	10,596,767.00	48.3%	283,053.41	2.7%	1,286,437.09	14.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	558,322.50	2.5%	24,690.79	4.4%	0.00	4.4%
Client / General Assistance	448,000.00	2.0%	14,354.08	3.2%	116,102.50	29.1%
Indirect Cost	1,007,110.00	4.6%	218,298.59	21.7%	788,811.41	100.0%
Total	21,944,142.50	100.0%	2,356,776.83	10.7%	9,598,582.12	54.5%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs						
Disability Determination Division						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	41,243,263.00	71.1%	8,843,286.79	21.4%	32,288,545.17	99.7%
Travel	64,300.00	0.1%	9,580.64	14.9%	33,741.50	67.4%
General Operating	4,207,654.00	7.3%	620,975.94	14.8%	2,407,504.40	72.0%
Office Furniture & Equipment	34,213.00	0.1%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Client / General Assistance	7,450,000.00	12.8%	1,628,778.35	21.9%	5,771,221.65	99.3%
Indirect Cost	5,000,570.00	8.6%	1,134,657.29	22.7%	3,865,912.71	100.0%
Total	58,000,000.00	100.0%	12,237,279.01	21.1%	44,366,925.43	97.6%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

All Programs DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	8,575,757.00	73.4%	1,825,182.39	21.3%	6,717,664.39	99.6%
Travel	71,200.00	0.6%	14,452.75	20.3%	0.00	20.3%
General Operating	2,988,801.00	25.6%	320,333.30	10.7%	2,203,578.91	84.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	47,998.00	0.4%	1,616.54	3.4%	0.00	3.4%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	6,980.00	0.1%	1,594.17	22.8%	5,385.83	100.0%
Total	11,690,736.00	100.0%	2,163,179.15	18.5%	8,926,629.13	94.9%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 24

As of September 30, 2023

Personnel

Salary Expense

Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc

FICA-Retirement Contributions

Travel

Travel - Agency Direct

Travel - Reimbursements

General Operating

AFP Encumbrances

Bond Indebtness and Expenses

Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation

General Operating

Inter/Intre 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

Office Furniture & Equipment

Library Equipment & Resources

Office Furniture & Equipment

Client / General Assistance

Social Service and Assistance Payments

Indirect Cost

Human Resource Director's Report

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 11 vacant positions filled / 66 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
MSD	Commission Administrative Assistant / 0835	10/31/2023	MSD	10/10/2023	Continuous	24-036	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 0479	09/27/2022	MSD CDS	08/21/2023	08/25/2023	24-009.1	Natalie Marek	10/01/2023
MSD	Human Resources Programs Manager / 0926	12/01/2022	MSD HR	07/12/2023	Continuous	23-046.2	Toyna Holman	10/01/2023
FSD	Accountant / 0713	11/01/2019	FSD	09/14/2023	Continuous	24-027	Currently Open	
DDS	Deputy Administrator / 1094	01/01/2020	DDS	10/06/2023	10/12/2023	24-035	In Selection Process	
DDS	Disability Medical Consultant, 2147 / 1476	N/A	DDS	08/25/2023	08/31/2023	24-024	Kristi Self	10/02/2023
OSB	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0131	10/02/2023	OSB	10/17/2023	Continuous	24-037	Currently Open	
OSB	Nursing Service Supervisor, 8133 / 0851	12/31/2023	OSB	09/22/2023	Continuous	24-031	Currently Open	
OSB	School Psychologist, 2045 / 0463	07/31/2023	OSB	10/26/2023	Continuous	23-095	Currently Open	
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0235	03/08/2023	OSB	10/12/2023	Continuous	23-027	Currently Open	
OSD	Fleet Specialist / 0348	07/28/2023	OSD	09/15/2023	Continuous	24-029	Currently Open	
OSD	Recreational Activities Specialist / 0247	08/01/2023	OSD	08/16/2023	Continuous	24-014	Christopher Reagle	10/02/2023
OSD	Director of Outreach and Accessibilities, 4966 / P104791	New PIN	OSD	08/07/2023	Continuous	24-017	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0050	07/31/2023	OSD	08/16/2023	Continuous	24-022	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Specialist, 2308 / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open	
OSD	Food Service Specialist / 1044	08/01/2023	OSD	09/12/2023	Continuous	24-006	Sara Keller	10/09/2023
OSD	LPN, 2604 / 0384	07/31/2023	OSD	07/26/2023	Continuous	24-010	Jaime Brown	10/16/2023
OSD	Manual Sign Language Specialist / 0261	07/31/2023	OSD	09/06/2023	Continuous	24-011	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0542	01/13/2010	OSD	07/26/2023	Continuous	24-012	Camryn Thomason	10/02/2023
OSD	Teaching Assistant / P103831	08/01/2023	OSD	07/28/2023	Continuous	24-015	Currently Open	
OSD	Construction/Maintenance Tech / 1042	04/08/2022	OSD	10/05/2023	Continuous	24-016	Currently Open	
OSD	Principal, 1854 / 0081	02/01/2010	OSD	09/06/2023	Continuous	23-082	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist / 0778,1043, 0641, 0578, 0824	04/21/2023 04/22/2022	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Adrian Chebultz	10/02/2023

		06/30/2023						
		08/19/2021						
		10/22/2012						
		07/31/2023						
		04/30/2020						
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0022, 0569, 0890	08/01/2021	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Currently Open	
OSD	School Psychologist, 2045 / 0070	12/31/2022	OSD	09/15/2023	Continuous	23-050	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0472	08/31/2023	VR15 – MWC	09/05/2023	Continuous	24-025	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0478	09/08/2023	VR12 – Lawton	09/05/2023	Continuous	24-026	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0577	08/07/2023	VR63 – Alva	09/22/2023	Continuous	24-032	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1188	06/01/2023	VR97 – Guymon	08/15/2023	Continuous	24-019	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0047	12/30/2022	VR07 – Durant	08/15/2023	Continuous	24-020	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0714	08/18/2023	VR26 – Claremore	08/16/2023	Continuous	24-021	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Field Representative / 0034	04/30/2023	VR09 – ESS	07/12/2023	Continuous	24-002	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Field Representative / 1211	07/28/2023	VR – TBD	07/17/2023	Continuous	24-005	Tracy Keeley	10/16/2023
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0066	07/11/2023	VR81 - Chickasha	10/19/2023	Continuous	24-008	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1190	06/09/2023	VR08 – Enid	06/05/2023	Continuous	23-096	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Field Representative / 1195	11/21/2022	TBD	09/13/2023	Continuous	23-098	Currently Open	
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0467	04/14/2023	VR23 – OKC	10/27/2023	Continuous	23-083	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0079	04/13/2023	VR23 – OKC	10/27/2023	Continuous	23-085	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0821	04/14/2023	VR13 – McAlester	05/02/2023	Continuous	23-086	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0393	12/31/2022	VR29 – Edmond	02/14/2023	Continuous	23-067	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0646	08/01/2022	VR41 – Ponca City	11/21/2022	Continuous	23-038	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0948	11/08/2022	VR05 – 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	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0776	07/15/2022	VR86 – Ada	10/17/2023	Continuous	23-021	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1078	08/01/2022	VR07 – Durant	09/06/2022	Continuous	23-022	LuCretia Austin	10/02/2023

VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0073	06/20/2022	VR13 – McAlester	09/26/2023	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	09/15/2023	Continuous	22-102.1	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0793	07/26/2022	VR05 – Weatherford	06/13/2022	Continuous	22-105	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0846	05/05/2022	VR19 – OKC	05/10/2022	Continuous	22-089	Heike Fuller 10/02/2023
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0381	04/04/2022	VR04 – Bartlesville	09/25/2023	Continuous	22-072	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0752, 0955	11/01/2021 10/31/2022	VR80 – Tulsa	11/03/2022	Continuous	23-037	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 / 0001	08/31/2023	SBVI73 – OKC	09/15/2023	Continuous	24-028	Currently Open
SBVI	Public Information Officer / 0198	07/17/2023	SBVI72 – OKC	09/22/2023	Continuous	24-030	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0267	09/18/2023	SBVI64 – Tulsa	09/26/2023	Continuous	24-033	Currently Open
SBVI	Administrative Assistant / 0510	09/18/2023	SBVI72 – OKC	09/22/2023	Continuous	24-034	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0158	06/22/2023	SBVI58 – Ada	07/11/2023	Continuous	24-001	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0396	05/31/2023	SBVI58 – Ada	10/10/2023	Continuous	23-097	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0094	05/08/2023	SBVI59 – Enid	10/10/2023	Continuous	23-084	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Facility Business Consultant / 0170	06/01/2022	SBVI 33 – OKC	01/04/2023	Continuous	23-054	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 0805, 1027, 0167	11/21/2020 01/01/2021 02/20/2020	SBVI 33 – OKC	10/10/2023	Continuous	23-056	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	10/05/2023	Continuous	22-058.1	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0669	05/29/2021	SBVI 69 – Weatherford	10/09/2023	Continuous	21-080.5	Currently Open

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 6

As of October 31, 2023

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

Retirement = 1

1 = 47 years 6 months

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Resignation = 1

1 = 17 years 7 months

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

Resignation = 1

1 = 1 year 5 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Resignation = 2

1 = 7 months

1 = 5 years

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Retirement = 1

1 = 14 years 5 months

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2024

FTE as of October 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)	77.8	74.00	2.00	0.00	76.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	229.0	192.00	28.00	(1.00)	219.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired VR/SBVI-DP	108.0	85.00	15.00	(2.00)	98.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	100.0	97.00	4.00	0.00	101.00
	129.0	112.00	16.00	(1.00)	127.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	646.8	562.00	65.00	(4.00)	623.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	350.0	322.00	1.00	(322.00)	323.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	996.8	884.00	66.00	(326.00)	946.00

FY 24 Budgetary Limit = 1255

*** 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
 Executive Assistant (Vacant)
 Rosemarie Chitwood, Secretary V
 Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Report

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Report

Since the last ORC report to the Commission, the Council finalized its FFY24 Strategic Plan, and the Executive Committee approved it on September 28, 2023. This report included a copy of the final version for the Commission.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on September 7, 2023, at the Strategic Planning meeting; all the objectives and activities for FFY23 were met. The Committee appreciates the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Executive Team for assisting in this effort.

As the Committee overseeing the ORC contract's administration, we are pleased to report that the FFY23 budget was successfully closed.

ORC received several appointments and reappointments after the last report, including:

- Melissa Davis – Oklahoma Parent Center (OPC)
- Debbie Davenport, Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (OKTVR) – 121 Tribal Project
- Nikki Jolly – Community Rehabilitation Services Provider (CRP)
- Lori Chesnut - Oklahoma State Department of Education representative
- William Ginn – Client Assistance Program representative (CAP)
- Lynn Dunn – Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
- Charity Eidson – Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) Counselor
- Angela Jaworski – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor

Planning and Program (P&P) Committee

The P&P Committee met on September 7, 2023, during the Strategic Planning (SP) meeting.

The Committee will continue to actively support the DRS Process Improvement (PI) Unit and DRS in the planning and development of the State Plan, the Customer Satisfaction Survey, and any other survey involving individuals with disabilities.

Policy and Legislative (P&L) Committee Report

The P&L Committee met at the Strategic Planning meeting on September 7, 2023.

The Committee will continue to coordinate activities with other Councils within the State to avoid duplication of efforts and will partner with DRS to celebrate People with Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD).

The Council's staff, Allyson Robinson and Carolina Colclasure, participated in the 2023 Fall National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) Conference that took place in Savannah, GA, on October 28-29.

Transition Committee Report

The Transition Committee met at the Strategic Planning meeting on September 7, 2023.

The Transition Committee will continue promoting increased student and family involvement in transition planning by inviting students and families to share their transition experiences.

The Committee also assisted with planning the 2023 Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI). It will take place on November 14 and 15, and this year's theme is Creating Connections. It will be an in-person event at the Glenpool Conference Center.

Employment Committee Report

The Employment Committee met for the Strategic Planning meeting on September 7, 2023.

The Employment Committee will continue to support and collaborate with DRS's Business Services Program (BSP) in all its activities.

The ORC Quarterly Meeting calendar for FFY24 is as follows:

- Thursday, November 16, 2023, 9:30 am
- Thursday, February 15, 2024, 9:30 am
- Thursday, May 16, 2024, 9:30 am
- Thursday, August 15, 2024, 9:30 am

***Respectfully submitted by
Carolina Colclasure, ORC Program Manager***

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Strategic Plan for FFY2024

The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council complies with the Federal Rehabilitation Act mandates through its strategic plan process and the following functions and related tasks.

The Mission of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) is “To facilitate consumer education and empowerment, to assure services are of high quality and lead to the employment of individuals with disabilities within the state of Oklahoma.”

Program and Planning Committee

Reviews, analyzes and advises DSA on the Core Common Measures of Section 106 of the *Rehabilitation Act* of 1973, as amended, by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Active participation in the DRS State Plan Meetings. Active participation on the DRS Statewide Assessment and analyze the trends of the Case Surveys.

Goal 1

In accordance with Section 105 (A)(c)(i) of the Rehab Act, the Program and Planning Committee, will quarterly or as necessary, review, analyze and advise the Designated State Agency (DSA) on the performance measurements, client surveys, Statewide Assessment, and other relevant data.

Program and Planning Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
<p>Objective 1.1 Review, analyze, and advise the DSA regarding the performance of the State unit's responsibilities, particularly related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Eligibility, including order of selection; b) The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and c) Functions performed by DSA that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes. 		
<p>Objective 1.2 Advise the DSA regarding activities and assist in the preparation of the</p>		

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) portion of the State Plan, amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments and evaluation.		
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Program and Planning Committee Activities	Status	Unmet/Reason
Activity 1.1 - Develop, agree to, and review State Plan goals, priorities, and recommendations.		
Activity 1.2 – Evaluate the effectiveness of the program and submit reports to the RSA Secretary under the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).		
Activity 1.3 – Review and evaluate Field Coordinators data on the performance activities of the DSA at the quarterly ORC meetings.		

Goal 2

The Program and Planning Committee will support quality customer services, career planning and effective employment.

Program and Planning Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
Objective 2.1 - Assist the DSA with the continued improvement of consumer satisfaction surveys and review survey outcomes.		
Objective 2.2 To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, encourage coordination of activities among WIOA partners to move all clients to successful employment.		

Program and Planning Committee Activities	Met	Unmet/Reason
Activity 2.1 Review findings related to special programs conducted by the DSA and give recommendations for continued or improved quality of service.		
Activity 2.2 Serve as a repository for disability-specific groups. Make recommendations to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council for potential collaboration, partnership, and/or initiatives with disability-specific groups.		

Executive Committee

Comprised of the SRC Chair, Vice-Chair, and 3 members-at-large. The Executive Committee also consists of the Associate Director and Director of Sponsored Programs of the OSU, Department of Wellness, who oversees the contractual administration of the ORC. Ensures that committees are assigned to meet the requirements of Section 105 of the Rehab Act with regard to Public Hearings, State Plan, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Customer Satisfaction and Annual Report.

Goal 3

Maintain standing committees that address the goals and objectives outlined by the ORC, the DSA State Plan, and the Rehabilitation Act (i.e., Policy and Legislative Committee, Program and Planning Committee, and Transition and Employment Committee). Every ORC member will serve on a committee(s).

Executive Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
Objective 3.1 Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary no later than 90 days after the end of the Federal fiscal year an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public through appropriate modes of communication.		
Objective 3.2 Resources. The Council, in conjunction with the Designated State		

<p>Agency, must prepare a plan for the provision of resources, including staff and other personnel that may be necessary and sufficient for the Council to carry out its functions under this part. The resource plan must, to the maximum extent possible, rely on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the plan. Any disagreements between the Designated State Agency and the Council regarding the amount of resources necessary to carry out the functions of the Council must be resolved by the Governor, consistent with paragraphs (i)(1) and (2) of this section. The Council must, consistent with State law, supervise and evaluate the staff and personnel that are necessary to carry out its functions. Those staff and personnel that are assisting the Council in carrying out its functions may not be assigned duties by the Designated State Agency or any other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.</p>		
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Executive Committee Activities	Met	Unmet/Reason
<p>Activity 3.1 Meet with DSA Division Administrators and the State Director quarterly, or as needed to maintain regular communication.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.2 As a Council vacancy opens, the Program Manager will recruit, recommend, and consult with the Governor’s Deputy of Appointments to ensure membership compliance with the Rehabilitation Act.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.3 Actively recruit and reach out to businesses and disability organizations to educate them on the services of DSA as well as the SRC purpose.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.4 Continue to coordinate with the DSA Division Administrators to ensure the attendance of Field Coordinators and</p>		

associate members to attend quarterly meetings.		
Activity 3.5 The ORC will send at least one representative to the SILC quarterly meetings, and a SILC representative will attend and report to the ORC on SILC activities.		
Activity 3.6 Explore opportunities for the orientation of SILC members on the role of the ORC.		
Activity 3.7 Continually review and update the ORC Website.		
Activity 3.8 Review and approve the Council's Strategic Plan after the Strategic Planning Meeting.		
Activity 3.9 ORC will continue to support the partnership between the DSA and OKTVR and will assist the OKTVR with the planning of their activities.		

Policy and Legislative Committee

Activities include, but are not limited to, advocacy and education, policy and State Plan review, State Plan Public Hearings and Success Stories. Also, responsible for the reviewing/monitoring of pending and current disability-related legislation, particularly with respect to impact on funding; suggest/develop legislation as needed. Active participation on the DRS Policy Re-engineering Committee. Support DRS with both national and state efforts to enhance advocacy activities and services for VR and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) clientele.

Goal 4:

The ORC will build capacity for consumer education and empowerment to showcase awareness and education for both consumers and employers.

Policy and Legislative Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
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<p>Objective 4.1 To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Advisory Panel of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the State Mental Health Planning Council, the State Assistive Technology Act Program and the State Workforce Development Board.</p>		
<p>Objective 4.2 Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State Agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State</p>		
<p>Objective 4.3 Support DSA with disability-related legislation during the Oklahoma Legislative Session</p>		
<p>Objective 4.4 Support DSA efforts with Access for All Initiative for all job seekers, businesses, and employers worksites through all levels of Oklahoma Works. Working with the Governor’s Council for Workforce and Economic Development (GCWED), system partners bring sharper focus on developing and employing more Oklahomans with disabilities.</p>		

<p>Policy and Legislative Committee Activities</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Unmet/Reason</p>
<p>Activity 4.1 Partner with DSA on “People with Disability Awareness Day (PWDAD)” by marketing the event, setting up an exhibitor booth, and participating in the legislative visits.</p>		
<p>Activity 4.2 Continue participation and input with VR/SBVI Division Staff to ensure the DSA</p>		

administrative rules align with the Rehabilitation Act, Oklahoma consumer needs, and employment outcomes.		
Activity 4.3 The DSA will share updates with the Council after the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) spring and fall conferences.		
Activity 4.4 Provide public comment on administrative rule changes, promote consumer attendance at all public hearings, and distribute flyers with a summary of proposed changes and information on public hearings.		
Activity 4.5 ORC PM will coordinate to share pertinent disability-related information and resources with OK Congressional members in their local district offices.		
Activity 4.6 ORC will visit with State Legislators to share information and stories as appropriate. ORC will also partner with different disability-related agencies/groups to share their success stories and DSA information with legislators as appropriate.		
Activity 4.7 Support DSA initiatives and goals by providing information to partners.		

Transition Committee

Active participation in the Oklahoma Transition Council. Support DRS with statewide efforts to enhance transition activities and services for youth in secondary settings to increase successful employment outcomes.

Goal 5

Facilitate the communication of transition services information and growth of partnerships between Tribal VR, DRS, DDS, OSDE, ODMHSAS, Career Tech, and other agencies/partners.

Transition Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
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<p>Objective 5.1 The ORC will facilitate the communication of transition services information and the growth of partnerships between related agencies/entities that provide services to students with disabilities and their support systems.</p>		
<p>Objective 5.2 The ORC will share new resources, including the DRS Transition Newsletter, and continue to promote awareness for student and family engagement, including updating resources for self-advocacy and self-determination.</p>		
<p>Objective 5.3 The ORC will promote increased student and family involvement in transition planning by inviting transition students and families to share their transition experience and professionals (educators, VR counselors and others) to share information (via a one-pager, virtually, in person, etc.) about transition programs (Pre-ETS, BEST, STEP, Project SEARCH, VIBE, STEM, Career Expos, etc.), including best practices, at one of the quarterly ORC meetings.</p>		

Goal 6

Continue to work with the DSA on the needs assessment of individuals with disabilities for transition career services and pre-employment transition services. This goal will satisfy the final requirement listed in the VR Services portion of the Unified State Plan – Description – Statewide Assessment.

Transition Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
<p>Objective 6.1 The ORC will continue to collaborate with the DSA Process Improvement staff on the needs assessment instrument to determine the needs of youth.</p>		

Goal 7

Promote self-advocacy and self-determination resources for youth and their families to increase future opportunities for success.

Transition Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
<p>Objective 7.1 The ORC will promote self-advocacy and self-determination trainings and resources for youth and their families to increase future opportunities for success by partnering with the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, Developmental Disabilities Services, OK Family Network, OU Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Alliance, the Oklahoma Parent’s Center, and others.</p>		
<p>Objective 7.2 The ORC will develop the following new resources to facilitate access to services for VR counselors, students, educators, work skills trainers, pre-employment transition specialists, and other support systems including 1) training video, 2) infographic, and 3) checklist to improve accessibility for all.</p>		

Transition Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
<p>Activity 7.1 With the assistance of the Committee, the ORC Program Manager, will invite and schedule at least one student and their family to share their transition experience at one of the Quarterly ORC meeting or the Transition Committee meetings.</p>		
<p>Activity 7.2 With the assistance of the Committee, the ORC PM will invite and schedule professionals (employers, educators, VR counselors, and others) to share their experience hiring youth with disabilities and/or information about transition programs at one of the quarterly ORC meetings or the Transition Committee meetings.</p>		

<p>Activity 7.3 The ORC will annually review the State Department of Education, Special Education Child Count Data to study trends and report to DSA in order for the DSA to have an awareness of future needs of both consumers and personnel.</p>		
<p>Activity 7.4 The ORC Transition Committee will assist with the dissemination of the Transition Folders to students, families, educators, support staff, VR counselors, and support systems.</p>		
<p>Activity 7.5 The ORC will disseminate information about the transition fairs that the Pre-ETS Specialists and DRS will host for students and families within school districts across the state.</p>		

Employment Committee

With an increased emphasis on employment under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), this committee will work together to strengthen coordination with employment and training services for individuals with disabilities who are job seekers.

Goal 8

The ORC will collaborate with DSA to proactively promote Job Readiness and evidence-based supported employment and education to increase employment and education rates.

Employment Committee Objectives	Met	Unmet/Reason
<p>Objective 8.1 Partner with the DRS Business Services Program (BSP) and Oklahoma ABLE Tech to provide employers in Oklahoma information regarding accessibility in the workplace in order to create a viable employment marketplace for VR/SBVI clientele.</p>		

Objective 8.2 Expand the dissemination of employment resources to all ORC stakeholders.		
Objective 8.3 Support the DRS BSP mission and assist the Business Advisory Council (BAC) when needed.		
Objective 8.4 Assist in the professional development of DRS Staff and Clients on workforce.		
Objective 8.5 Expansion of workplace learning, including but not limited to apprenticeships or internships for youth and adult clients. Creation of a development plan for adult clients on how to leverage work-based learning opportunities.		
Objective 8.6: Create a plan for accessibility and accommodations training for key business stakeholders. Facilitated by ABLE Tech and the Business Advisory Council		
Objective 8.7: Design a community engagement plan for consumers and other stakeholders to link to our employment resources.		
Objective 8.8: Create a public relations plan that is focused on education of Business and Industry of DRS organization, role, and contributions to the workforce.		
Objective 8.9: Develop a plan to formalize the business case for full-time employee increase within the Business and Industry division.		

Employment Committee Activities	Met	Unmet/Reason
Activity 8.1 Identify ORC Stakeholders to include in the identification and		

dissemination of employment resources in an accessible format.		
Activity 8.2 Identify critical occupations within industry ecosystems to target the dissemination of employment resources.		
Activity 8.3 Expand training options for Consumers to receive further soft skills employment training.		
Activity 8.4 Update ORC's website with employment resources.		
Activity 8.5 Support Business Services Career events.		
Activity 8.6 Adults: Building out a work-based learning referral system.		
Activity 8.7 ABLE Tech will design and manage the employment resource page in partnership with other related agencies.		
Activity 8.8: Identify and develop the value proposition of DRS and its clients to Business and Industry Partners and the state as a whole.		
Activity 8.9: Research comparable states Business and Industry divisions, assess service volume from Business and Industry, identify gaps, and develop the Return On Investment (ROI) for the division.		

Oklahoma School for the Blind Report and Donation Report

OSB Elementary

Five new elementary students have been added since the year began. Two in PreK, one in second grade and two in fifth grade.

Western Heritage Days were held again at the Silver Spur Ranch. The Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association as well as Connors State College Agriculture sponsors and students coordinated and volunteered at the event. Students enjoyed riding horses, stagecoach rides, mechanical bull rides, fishing, dummy roping, and rock wall climbing. Director Melinda Fruendt, Tonya Garman, Carol Brown, and Jody Harlan attended the event as well. The students had a wonderful day and made connections with their "buddy" for the day.

OSB Elementary went to the McKeon Center in Tulsa for a "Touch the Art" exhibit. They touched art in a lot of different mediums as they were allowed to explore the art with their hands.

On October 23rd, OSB Elementary took a trip to the Rockin' R Ranch in Tahlequah, OK. They were allowed to walk through the pumpkin patch and choose a pumpkin to take home. The ranch had all sorts of games and activities for the kids to play on as well as many different animals to pet in the petting zoo.

OSB hosted the elementary on October 26th with a Trick-or-Treat event around the school. The students and staff dressed in costumes that day for Red Ribbon Week and the elementary students went around the school and Trick-or-Treated the classrooms and offices.

Outreach Team:

As a statewide resource, OSB Outreach Team members have been covering hundreds of miles across the state over the last couple of months providing indirect services for families, school districts, public and private organizations, and others working with visually impaired / blind students. We receive routine feedback on a quarterly basis through surveys in order to improve the quality and integrity of the services we provide. Some of the comments we recently received include:

"XX was very helpful and I am glad she was able to attend the IEP meeting. She had helpful information to help our student, in addition to helping the rest of the IEP team better understand his disabilities related to vision. Thank you all for your assistance."

"Appreciate the help OSB provided in determining whether or not the student has a visual impairment."

"XX is always very kind and is willing to help in any way possible. She always answers or finds the answer to any questions we have."

Oklahoma VI Teacher Institute:

OSB recently held the initial training session of the Oklahoma VI Teacher Institute (OVTI). The institute is a training program offered to certified Oklahoma Teachers seeking training in working with Visually Impaired / Blind students. OVTI is a year-long program designed to provide hands-on training, methodology, tools, resources, and on-going mentoring and access to VI Specialists. This is the 6th year we have provided the institute and we currently have 13 participants that are enrolled. OVTI offers both on-site and virtual training sessions throughout the year beginning in September and ending in June 2024. We received great responses and feedback from the participants for the initial session and are looking forward to the rest of the year!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

OSB held its annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at the Shrine Temple in Muskogee. OSB food service workers prepared a delicious meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread and desserts, along with tea and water. The silent auction went off with a bang with 35 items up for bid. Ann Page did a tremendous job organizing and running the dessert auction with Cammeron Brice as the auctioneer. The dessert auction saw over 25 items auctioned off. Boom-a-rang Diner once again attended and presented the school with a \$3000 donation from their Keep Giving Back Foundation. Chris Ferrell led the Jazz Band in another excellent performance, topped off with solo singers, Leah Sailors and Evy Kizzia performing. The Masonic Lodge 28 once again partnered with OSB to make this event even more successful. On top of the \$7,465 raised, the Masons will provide an additional \$5,000. A special shout-out to the UAFS Delta Gamma Sorority and the UAFS boys basketball players that helped serve and clean up.

Dining for Dollars Fundraiser – Mama Tigs

On October 10-12, Jonnie & Reo's Mama Tigs Wood-Fired Pizza sponsored 'Dining for Dollars' event at their restaurant. Ten percent of all proceeds during those three days were donated to OSB. Each day saw a large crowd, with over 50 chairs filled. The event culminated with a donation in the amount of \$650.00 being given to the school.

ESSER- Parent Outreach - Upcoming Events: (to be scheduled in December and early Spring)

"Girls Night In" and "Guys Night In" is focused on providing parents of visually impaired/ blind teens and in-betweens (ages 11-16) with positive strategies and tools for success in everyday life.

The weekend with the girls will provide opportunities for self-care training (appropriate dressing skills for specific occasions, make-up application, hair styles) etiquette, and dance lessons.

The weekend with the guys will provide hands-on training in dressing skills (tying a bow/ suit tie, color coordination, putting an outfit together). Hygiene- ex. how to shave, clipping their fingernails. Simple home repairs, changing a fuse or lightbulb, using a plunger, how to grill hamburgers or hot dogs, and basic outdoor skills (pitching a tent and building a campfire).

ESSER- Emotional Support: SPARK Group

Supporting **P**ositive **A**ttitudes through **R**esponsible actions and **K**nowledge
We contract with a retired School Psychologist that is also a Licensed Professional Counselor that provides emotional support for our residential students on Sunday evenings. This has been very beneficial for our students that need a little extra encouragement, a listening ear, and meaningful engagement. It often makes a difference in the way they start their school week by helping them to change their mindset and set them up for success. The primary focus of Spark is based on (3) pillars:

Positivity- attitude and interaction with others; focus on positive inner self-talk; gratitude in daily life

Coping Skills- strategies to appropriately deal with stress and solve problems; effective communication with others

Setting Goals- short and long term; identify their own individual strengths and weaknesses; achieving goals through resilience and perseverance

ESSER Grant

The 2022-23 school year ended with the close out of our second year of the ESSER Afterschool and Summer School grant. The summer school monies were spent on salaries and benefits for teachers that worked with students during our two-week summer camp. While the year two funds did not cover all of the salaries, we were fortunate enough to apply for and receive additional funding for the current school year summer and afterschool programs.

Our afterschool programming assisted in paying salaries, supplies for various activities (3D printing, crafting, art classes, etc.), expenses related to required ESSER professional development, enhancement activity field trips, salaries and supplies needed for Family Engagement “Weekend With the Experts” conducted by our Outreach Department. This year we set to have a great start with our ESSER program.

Afterschool initial allocation \$61,100

Supplemental funding \$38,900

Total Afterschool **\$100,000**

Summer initial allocation \$25,900

Supplemental funding \$25,900

Total Summer **\$51,800**

Red Ribbon Week

OSB celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 23-26. Students and staff participated in the daily dress up days.

Monday "Freedom is Living Drug Free" – Wear Red/White/Blue Day

Tuesday "You'd be Crazy to Use Drugs!" – Crazy Dress Day

Wednesday "Chillax Drug Free!" – Pajama Day

Thursday "This is Me Drug-Free!" – Halloween Costume Day

ESSER Update from Afterschool Coordinator

The month of October was jam packed with after school activities provided by ESSER grant funding. OSB participated in the annual "Lights On Afterschool" event sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance which is the only nationwide event celebrating after school programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. This year the theme was "Lights On for Literacy" and OSB hosted events every Tuesday in October beginning with a Braille Scavenger hunt where students teamed up to follow braille clues around the school and gather ingredients to make a haunted trail mix. The second Tuesday the students and staff traveled to the Muskogee Public Library where they listened to a story and explored what their local libraries can do for them. On the third Tuesday we had a Frontiersman storyteller come tell his life story by the fire. The older boys had to demonstrate their skills at fire-building the night before and are now pros at it. We also had the privilege to retire some flags and honor many family members and friends who had died while serving our country. We finished off the event with spooky crafts and treats in our very own Library Media Center. Having access to such a wonderful collection of large print and braille books is what makes our library stand out from the rest and we are very proud of it.

ESSER also continues to provide early morning enrichment time for our students where they can get extra support from mentor teachers and after school clubs such as 3D Printing, Braille Club, Crafty Creations, Game Club, and Leadership Club. Each of these activities promote skills that our students can develop and use as they transition from OSB to college or career as well as lifetime leisure and healthy lifestyle.

BNSF Railroad Trip

Wednesday afternoon, October 4, 2023, students traveled to BNSF tracks 3001- 3002 in Muskogee to learn about jobs appropriate for the blind and visually impaired. Job titles such as clerk, head- quarter positions, and intermodal liaison were discussed. According to Superintendent David Nickles, a high school graduate can earn \$30/hour immediately out of school. Employees utilize a computer, large print, and braille. People with disabilities tend to stay with a team. Ryan Albright, Foreman, and David Nickles, Superintendent of Operations showed us around a static SPM 151 display and led us on a tour around an engine. "It's important to understand some of the vocabulary and workings of the trains in order to better understand a job elsewhere in the company" said Albright.. BNSF offers competitive pay, full benefits, and a generous retirement. The students enjoyed the trip and were given vital information for a possible career in the field.

Counselor Day at OSB.

On Oct. 12th, SBVI Counselors were invited to Counselor Day. The counselors met with the Juniors and Seniors to update their cases or to just get to know the students. A Benefits planner was also available to meet with students. The ILS ladies and students made soup, sandwiches, and desserts for lunch.

White Cane Day

Also, on Oct 12th the middle school and high school students went to downtown Muskogee and celebrated White Cane Day. Senator Dwayne Pemberton spoke to students and staff. Macey Millar spoke about the importance of the white cane and Kim Ford shared her experiences with the white cane. Then the group walked down the sidewalk on both sides of Broadway Street showing off their cane skills.

See You at the Pole

"See You at the Pole" was held on September 27th. Several city law officials attended the event, and students provided readings, songs, and prayed for their safety as well as for the nation, school, and family.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival was originally scheduled for October 24th, but due to a great chance of rain that night, the festival committee decided to move it to Monday, October 23rd. They pulled together and made all of the necessary last-minute changes to make the move. The weather was perfect! We had the traditional hayride, inflatables and many new festival games for the kids to enjoy. We had a pumpkin sweep, photo booth, pumpkin ring toss, coffin punch-a-prize, candy corn balloon pop, bowling, face painting, duck pond, and many more. The students enjoyed funnel cakes, nachos, snow cones,

kettle corn and cotton candy. The Speech and Drama Class once again hosted the spook house for a scary walk through a deserted old prison. The Dunk Tank was a new event added this year and the most popular! The student council members stepped up to be the 'dunkees." Fortunately, the weather was nice, and the water was tolerable. Former teacher, Mr. Butler came from an hour and a half away to bring his train for the kids to enjoy. It was a great surprise and treat for the students. We had a record attendance, and a great time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Echelle
OSB Superintendent

OSB DONATION REPORT

October 2023 Donations

Donations under \$500

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
10/23/2023	Frank Dirksen / Cane Quest t-shirts	\$ 300.00	701		
10/24/2023	Rockin R Farms / Elementary education	\$ 200.00	701		
10/31/2023	Ray Fenton/Braille Hot Wheels cars			toys	\$ 323.20

Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in October 2023 \$ 500.00 **Subtotal prop.** \$ 323.20

Donations \$500 and over

		\$ -			
10/5/2023	Downtown Lions Club of Tulsa/CQ & BC and Needy	\$ 2,000.00	701		
10/19/2023	Mama Tigs Pizza / Dining for Dollars	\$ 650.00	701		

Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in October 2023 \$ 2,650.00 **Subtotal prop.** \$ -

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS October - 2023 **\$3,473.20**

Oklahoma School for the Deaf Donation Report

OSD Donation Report October 2023

Donations Under \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
9/19	Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind			Robotics/Drone Competition Game Component	250.00
10/1	The USTA Ok. 2023			Equipment Grant for Tennis-Campus/Classroom	362.40
10/5	Starbucks			Gift Baskets	150.00
10/5	Margrett Cramer/Sorority			Halloween suckers for all students	13.12
10/14	Myriad Gardens Foundation			Family "FEELS" Event in OKC-Free Admission 10/14	72.00
10/18	The Blackbaud Giving Fund	25.00	70100	Grant for OTOD	
10/25	Amazon Wishlist			Donations made through Amazon for Boys & Girls Dorms	94.45
Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00		25.00		Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	941.97

Donations Over \$500.00

9/19	Amazon Wishlist			Donations made through Amazon for Boys & Girls Dorms	2,657.97
		0.00			2,657.97
Subtotal Cash Combined		25.00		Subtotal Property Combined	3,599.94

Total donation for October 2023

\$3,624.94
