



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services

➤ **Commissioners**
Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery, and Kelsey Lee

Regular Meeting

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Vocational Building, Community Room #107
1100 East Oklahoma Ave.
Sulphur, OK 73086

April 16, 2025

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma
Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting
April 16, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.**

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Vocational Building, Community Room #107
1100 East Oklahoma Ave.
Sulphur, OK 73086

Commissioners: Theresa Flannery, Chair; Dr. Janet Barres, Vice Chair; and
Kelsey Lee, Member

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility. There is no virtual attendance option for this meeting.

Public Comment: To sign up to speak, please sign up on arrival prior to the start of the meeting. Public comments will be limited to three minutes per person.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Theresa Flannery, Chair

2. Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act

Kathleen Arrieta, Commission Assistant

3. Public Comments

Public Audience - Under Oklahoma Open Meeting Laws, the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services cannot respond to or discuss any matter not on today's agenda.

4. Presentation of Longevity Certificates

Theresa Flannery, Chair

5. Spotlight on Students and Staff from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent, OSD

6. Executive Director's Report

Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director

- a) Certificates of Appreciation
- b) Report includes agency and departmental updates, process improvement, case reviews, and program standards.
- c) Possible discussion

Page 5

- 7. Legislative Report** Page 8
Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison
a) Status of commission expansion
b) Status of legislative bills
c) Possible discussion
- 8. Human Resources Report** Page 19
Tom Patt, HR Director
a) Personnel Activity report
b) Current FTE Status
c) Introduction of new staff
d) Possible discussion
- 9. Chief Financial Officer's Report** Page 25
Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer
a) Financial Status Report
b) Possible discussion
- 10. Communications Report** Page 33
Mark Beutler, Director of Communications
a) Report includes projects and media/publicity
b) Possible discussion
- 11. Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Report** Page 35
Tracy Brigham, Division Administrator
a) Priority Group Updates and Portal Referrals
b) Report includes productions totals, department updates, and meetings attended.
c) Possible discussion
- 12. Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Transition Report** Page 41
Renee N. Sansom Briscoe, Transition Coordinator
a) Report includes programs, staff, and contract updates.
b) Possible discussion
- 13. Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) Report** Page 49
Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent
a) Report includes school updates, meetings, events, and student activities.
b) Possible discussion

- 14. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for Deaf** Page 52
Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent
a) Donation Report for March 2025
b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

- 15. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for the Blind** Page 54
Brent Pearce, Superintendent
a) Donation Report for March 2025
b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

- 16. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** Page 56
Kevin Treese, Program Manager III, SBVI
a) Donation Report for March 2025
b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

- 17. Review of the Minutes of the March 12, 2025, Commission Meeting.** Page 58
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.

- 18. New Business**
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting 25 O.S. § 311.

- 19. Adjournment**
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Discussion and possible action

Note: "Possible action" by the Commission includes, but is not limited to, approval, authorization, adoption, rejection, denial, amendment, taking no action, or tabling the item for disposition at a later date or time.

Next Regular Commission meeting: Wednesday, May 15th at 10:00 AM



Executive Director's Report

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
April 16, 2025

Executive

March

27 – ORC Executive Committee Meeting; VRTAC-QM ITAA Monthly Meeting.

28 – Think College Network VR Strategic Planning Workgroup.

31 – Ready, Set, Hired Job Fair – Welcome and thank vendors.

April

2-4 – Annual Leave.

6-9 – CSAVR Spring Conference, Bethesda, MD.

11 – OCCY Meeting.

14 – OKIPSE Update Meeting.

15 – Human Services Meeting.

16 – Commission Meeting in Sulphur; DRS Executive Team Meeting.

*Began Fruendt Topic Meetings.

Process Improvement (PI) – Lyuda Polyun

AWARE

- Utilizing the QA Advisor software to identify potential RSA-911 errors and working to resolve those errors.
- Testing an update to AWARE that includes a new system rule that will eliminate a couple of RSA-911 errors we have been seeing frequently.
- Imported January 2025 OU Pre-Employment Transition Services into AWARE, and preparing to import February 2025 services.
- Continuing to facilitate basic AWARE training for newly hired field staff.

Case Review

- For the month of March, QA team is currently working on a Statewide Audit of open cases for federal compliance.
- QA February reports of compliance compiled and distributed.
- The team developed a series of pre-ETS questions for the review process. Still undergoing editing process.
- Consultation meeting held with AWARE staff regarding pre-ETS process/data collection.
- Victoria developed a companion Guide to the pre-ETS question for QA Case review.

Program Standards, Statistical Research, Data Dashboards

- The 2024-2025 SDE Child Count IEP dashboard is complete and in accessibility testing.
- The School Work Study and Work Adjustment Training dashboard is complete and in accessibility testing.
- Continue to work with the SharePoint team on an official form and process for future data requests.
- Initiated contact and planning for the OSB and OSD parent satisfaction surveys.
- Staff are working on various sections of the Statewide Needs Assessment with completion set for the end of the current calendar year.
- The program standards supervisor virtually attended the Tech Access OK conference, the UNH Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, and the US Dept of Education's Open Data Day Showcase.

Power Business Intelligence (BI)

- Continuing the training in Coursera.
- Continuing to work with our Power BI contractor to transition reports currently hosted in Tableau to the Power BI service.
- Working with SharePoint team to make an official process for report requests.
- Working on new forms requested from FSD and Chris Kennedy.

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



Legislative Report

4/16/25 – DRS Commission Legislative Report

by Jennifer Hardin

Report Submission Date: 04-07-2025

- **03/27/25** – Floor deadline for Bills to pass in Chamber of Origin.
- **Total Pending Bills After Deadline** = 770 (Session started with 3,095)
- **04/24/25** - Committee Deadline for Bills in Opposite Chamber.

'25 DRS Request Bills

[HB 2387](#)

[Eaves, Ryan \(R\)](#)
[Hines, Kelly \(R\)](#)

Increases the number of members on the Rehabilitation Services Commission.

Bill History: **2/25/25** - Voted from committee - Do Pass House Rules
3/10/25 - Laid out for consideration in the House at 2:58pm
3/10/25 - Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 86/N: 3)
3/11/25 - Received in the Senate

Note: Duplicate Senate bill listed below.

[SB 770](#)

[Hines, Kelly \(R\)](#)
[Eaves, Ryan \(R\)](#)

Expands the membership of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services to seven and adjusts their term expiration dates; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: **3/26/25** - Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 44/N: 1)
4/01/25 - Referred to House Committee on House Public Health
4/01/25 - Also Referred to House Oversight: Health & Human Services
4/09/25 - Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 206 - House Public Health

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



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

Bill Status Report

04-06-2025 - 18:22:52

'25 DRS Request Bills

[HB 2387](#) (1) [Eaves, Ryan \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Hines, Kelly \(F\)\(R\)](#) Increases the number of members on the Rehabilitation Services Commission.

Bill History: 03-10-25 H Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 86/N: 3)
03-11-25 S Received in the Senate
04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Health & Human Services

[SB 770](#) (1) [Hines, Kelly \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Eaves, Ryan \(F\)\(R\)](#) Expands the membership of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services to seven and adjusts their term expiration dates; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Health
04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Health & Human Services
04-09-25 H Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 206 - House Public Health

'25 Direct DRS Impact Bills

[HB 1138](#) [Ford, Ross\(R\)](#)
[Frix, Avery \(F\)\(R\)](#) Directs the Human Capital Management Division of OMES to receive and act upon complaints from disciplinary action and grievances filed by state employees under certain circumstances.

Bill History: 04-08-25 S Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 4S.9 - Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[HB 1178](#) [Stark, Marilyn\(R\)](#)
[Bullard, David\(R\)](#) Makes a misdemeanor the use of a service animal to attempt to gain treatment or benefits without the presence of a disability.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Public Safety

HB 1607	Gise, Emily (F)(R) Kern, Spencer (F)(R)	Requires state agencies to report all of its contract employees to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. Bill History: 04-08-25 S Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 4S.9 - Senate Retirement & Government Resources
HB 1833	Hefner, Elynn(D) Kirt, Julia(D)	Creates the Rethinking Paying Subminimal Wage to Persons with Disabilities Task Force to study and develop a plan to phase out the practice of paying workers with disabilities subminimal wages. Bill History: 04-01-25 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations
HB 1836	Hefner, Elynn(D) Dossett, Jo Anna(D)	Modifies the definition of persons with significant disabilities to include those with intellectual or developmental disabilities and only requires them to work 50% of the labor hours offered by a qualified nonprofit agency. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Retirement & Government Resources
HB 1934	Sterling, Danny(R) Weaver, Darrell(R)	Creates the Jamie Lea Pearl Act which outlines standards and liability requirements for tax exempt medical needs motor carriers. Bill History: 04-01-25 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations
HB 2729	Kendrix, Gerrid(R) Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	Prohibits courts from deferring to a state agency when determining compliance with statutes, requiring courts to interpret the meaning of statute de novo in a way which favors limiting agency power. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary
SB 633	Weaver, Darrell(R) Blair, Jason (F)(R)	Gives access to the Office of Juvenile Affairs' management information system to public school district superintendents. Bill History: 04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Health & Human Svcs

Disability Oversight Bills

[HB 1566](#) [Duel, Collin\(R\)](#)
[Weaver, Darrell\(R\)](#) Creating the Oklahoma Elder Exploitation and Abuse Act meant to help incapacitated persons and vulnerable adults protect themselves from those who neglect, exploit, or abuse them through civil action.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary

[SB 947](#) [Rosino, Paul\(R\)](#)
[Gise, Emily \(F\)\(R\)](#) Adjusts references to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, placing the ombudsman under the Attorney General and making the Council on Aging and Adult Protective Svcs a Dept of Human Services entity advising the ombudsman; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-09-25 H Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 206 - House Public Health

[SB 949](#) [Rosino, Paul\(R\)](#)
[Roe, Cynthia\(R\)](#) Establishes certain record request authority and related powers for the Office of Client Advocacy within the Dept. of Health; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Jud & Pub Safe

Education Bills

[HB 1075](#) [Hildebrant, Derrick \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#) Creates the Protect Our Kids Act which modifies the Board of Education's authority and expands certain restrictions, notice and oversight required for dismissal or refusal of reemployment; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

[HB 1086](#) [Lowe, Dick\(R\)](#)
[Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#) Adjusts school funding formula standards to remove an exemption on gifts and donations from budget calculation and to modify certain attendance; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

[HB 1087](#) [Lowe, Dick\(R\)](#)
[Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#) Adds additional years to the upper end of the teacher minimum salary schedule, providing an increase in pay to the longest serving teachers; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations

HB 1096	Hasenbeck, Toni(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Modifies various provisions related to student testing to include CLT exams along with other college entrance exams and requires the CLT exams to be held in a brick-and-mortar testing centers; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 1393	Kerbs, Dell(R) Daniels, Julie(R)	Directs the Board of Education to develop separate parental consent forms for various actions within a special education student's individual education program; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 1417	West, Josh(R) Weaver, Darrell(R)	Creates the School Access for Emergency Response Act which establishes a grant program for certain emergency communication system to be installed and maintained in school buildings. Bill History: 04-01-25 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations
HB 1491	Johns, Ronny(R) Reinhardt, Aaron (F)(R)	Authorizes members of the Board of Education to place an item on the following or subsequent meeting agenda upon written requests by at least two members. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 1727	Moore, Anthony(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Extends Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program eligibility to the children of teachers serving in the state for at least ten years; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations
HB 1938	Sterling, Danny(R) Rader, Dave(R)	Requires school districts to conduct an annual fitness assessment. Bill History: 04-01-25 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations
HB 1995	Turner, Tim (F)(R) Hamilton, Warren(R)	Designates school resource officers and security guards as school employees for the purposes of determining certain sex crimes against students; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

HB 2151	Hall, Rob (F)(R) Sacchieri, Kendal (F)(R)	Requires the Dept. of Education to publish certain federal education guidelines within five days of receiving them. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 2247	Waldron, John(D) Hines, Kelly (F)(R)	Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement the least restrictive environment requirements for the IDEA Act, to ensure students with special needs are not unnecessarily excluded from the classroom. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 2288	Hilbert, Kyle(R) Frix, Avery (F)(R)	Modifies provisions relating to the postretirement employment of teachers, allowing retired members to receive earning without a reduction in their retirement benefits; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Retirement & Government Resources
HB 2418	Fetgatter, Scott(R) Frix, Avery (F)(R)	Requires adjunct teachers to obtain State Board of Education approval before employment and to be reapproved if any significant changes in their qualifications occur; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 2702	Ford, Ross(R) Rader, Dave(R)	Defines special education administrator for school districts and requires the Board of Education to offer certain options for completing competency requirements; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SB 6	Seifried, Ally(R) Banning, Chris(R)	Adjusts school board elections to occur during other state and local elections and modifies filing periods to account for the adjustment. Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 3:00 p.m., Room 5S.2 - House Elections & Ethics
SB 105	Daniels, Julie(R) Caldwell, Chad(R)	Modifies various provisions related to the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-02-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Oversight: Education

[SB 139](#) [Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#)
[Caldwell, Chad\(R\)](#) Directs school districts to implement a "bell-to-bell" ban on the use of cell phones by students while on school grounds for specified school years; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Education

[SB 215](#) [Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#)
[Moore, Anthony\(R\)](#) Creates the Math Achievement and Proficiency Act which adjusts the standards and practices related to the education of mathematics in public schools; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 450
- House Approp Sub: Education

[SB 245](#) [Deevers, Dusty\(R\)](#)
[Hasenbeck, Toni\(R\)](#) Directs the Dept. of Education to establish and manage a High Dosage Tutoring Program to produce and assess tutors to improve student performance; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 450
- House Approp Sub: Education

[SB 382](#) [Bullard, David\(R\)](#)
[Stark, Marilyn\(R\)](#) Requires all children enrolling in pre-kindergarten to be toilet trained and directs the Dept. of Education to develop procedures to temporarily remove children not meeting required standards from the classroom; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Education

[SB 409](#) [Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#)
[Caldwell, Chad\(R\)](#) Requires schools statewide to be in session for an additional day on any year where the Board of Education is appropriated \$25 MIL more than the preceding year; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 450
- House Approp Sub: Education

[SB 758](#) [Thompson, Kristen\(R\)](#)
[Moore, Anthony\(R\)](#) Allows schools to use a limited number of virtual days towards required classroom instruction time; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 450
- House Approp Sub: Education

[SB 840](#) [Hicks, Carri\(D\)](#)
[Moore, Anthony\(R\)](#) Establishes a micro credential for certified teachers completing Certified Academic Language Therapist certification or Center for Effective Reading Instructions through the Educational Quality and Accountability Commission; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 450
- House Approp Sub: Education

[SB 841](#) [Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#)
[Hasenbeck, Toni\(R\)](#) Subject to funding, the State Regents shall utilize the Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund to enhance teacher training in certain early childhood educational programs to improve reading and causes of reading difficulties; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Education

General Government Bills

[HB 2108](#) [Osburn, Mike\(R\)](#)
[Gillespie, Christi \(F\)\(R\)](#) Adjusts various references in the Employee Insurance and Benefits Act, replacing certain references to OMES with the Health Care Authority.

Bill History: 04-08-25 S Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 4S.9
- Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[HB 2729](#) [Kendrix, Gerrid\(R\)](#)
[Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#) Prohibits courts from deferring to a state agency when determining compliance with statutes, requiring courts to interpret the meaning of statute de novo in a way which favors limiting agency power.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary

[SB 95](#) [Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#)
[Archer, Nick\(R\)](#) Exempts interns and other temporary, unpaid workers from the definition of employee within the Workers' Compensation Act.

Bill History: 04-03-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Oversight: Jud & Pub Safe

[SB 109](#) [Stanley, Brenda\(R\)](#)
[Miller, Nicole\(R\)](#) Requires health insurance in the state to provide coverage for certain genetic testing procedures related to cancer and family history.

Bill History: 04-07-25 H Meeting set for 4:30 p.m., Room 5S.2
- House Approp Sub: Health

Open Meeting/Rules Bills

[HB 1409](#) [Crosswhite-Hader, Denise\(R\)](#)
[Sacchieri, Kendal \(F\)\(R\)](#) Permits public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Act which have a opt-in notice distribution system to require subscribers to such systems to annually renew their participation.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Technology & Telecommunications

[HB 1664](#) [Cantrell, Josh\(R\)](#)
[Alvord, Jerry\(R\)](#) Permits the membership of boards of county commissioners to discuss county business and meet under certain circumstances without an official meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act under certain circumstances and limitations; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary

[HB 2095](#) [Menz, Annie\(D\)](#)
[Kirt, Julia\(D\)](#) Requires public bodies to respond to an open records request within 30 business days of receipt.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary

[HB 2209](#) [Lay, Mike \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Guthrie, Brian \(F\)\(R\)](#) Allows a member of a public body to participate in a public meeting via videoconference or teleconference from a private residence and does not require them to disclose their location when certain conditions are met.

Bill History: 04-01-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary

[HB 2731](#) [Kendrix, Gerrid\(R\)](#)
[Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#) Modifies when rules not subject to a joint resolution can be submitted, moving the due date from April 1st to February 1st.

Bill History: 04-03-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Administrative Rules

[SB 491](#) [Guthrie, Brian \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Hildebrant, Derrick \(F\)\(R\)](#) Expands authorized contents for discussion during public body executive sessions to include sale, lease and acquisition of real property.

Bill History: 04-03-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Oversight: Jud & Pub Safe

[SB 535](#)

[Daniels, Julie\(R\)](#)
[Pae, Daniel\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions related to the Open Records Act, adjusting notice, transparency, fee collection and privacy standards.

Bill History: 04-01-25 H And also Referred to House Oversight: Jud & Pub Safe

Workforce Dev. Bills

[SB 662](#)

[Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#)
[Hill, Brian\(R\)](#)

Directs the Workforce Commission to focus on programs to address certain workforce development needs related to critical workforce areas and related educational program development.

Bill History: 04-08-25 H Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 4S.5 - House Business

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Human Resources Report

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2025

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 7 vacant positions filled / 51 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
FSD	Accountant Intern / 1359	10/20/2012	FSD	03/28/2025	Continuous	25-078	In Selection Process	
FSD	Accountant / 1124	01/03/2025	FSD	02/04/2025	02/24/2025	25-064	In Selection Process	
FSD	Accountant / P107088	NEW PIN	FSD	02/18/2025	03/07/2025	25-070	Currently Open	
FSD	Budget Analyst / 0262	01/01/2024	FSD	02/20/2025	Continuous	25-072	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / P107184	NEW PIN	MSD	03/14/2025	Continuous	25-075	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 1082	08/01/2023	MSD	01/14/2025	02/03/2025	25-053	Elijah Barnes	03/03/2025
OSB	LPN / 0017	02/26/2025	OSB	03/03/2025	Continuous	25-073	Currently Open	
OSB	School Principal / 0537	01/01/2025	OSB	01/08/2025	Continuous	25-060	Currently Open	
OSB	LPN / 0420	11/03/2024	OSB	11/13/2024	Continuous	25-050	Currently Open	
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0235, 0378	11/30/2024	OSB	01/17/2024	Continuous	24-057	Lacey Moran	03/03/2025
OSB	School Psychologist, 2045 / 0463	07/31/2023	OSB	10/26/2023	Continuous	23-095	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Specialist / 0261	08/01/2024	OSD	02/24/2025	Continuous	25-071	Currently Open	
OSD	Counselor / 1028	11/13/2024	OSD	01/24/2025	Continuous	25-062	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Classroom) / 0648, 0525, 0111	11/01/2023 01/01/2025 03/01/2025	OSD	12/02/2024	Continuous	25-055	Currently Open	
OSD	Early Development Specialist / 1496	07/31/2024	OSD	09/19/2024	Continuous	25-036	Currently Open	
OSD	Construction/Maintenance Tech / 1042	09/30/2024	OSD	09/19/2024	Continuous	25-037	Currently Open	
OSD	School Counselor / 1488	10/01/2024	OSD	07/15/2024	Continuous	25-007	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher (Vocational) / 0448	10/06/2022	OSD	06/28/2024	Continuous	24-107	Currently Open	
OSD	Dir of Family and Early Childhood Services / 1494	08/01/2010	OSD	05/08/2024	Continuous	24-084	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher / 0635	05/10/2024	OSD – Chickasha	04/15/2024	Continuous	24-083	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0542	07/31/2024	OSD	01/17/2024	Continuous	24-058	Currently Open	
OSD		01/09/2024						

OSD	Sign Language Specialist, 2308 / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open		
		03/10/2024							
		09/08/2024							
		10/01/2024							
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Dorm) / 0642, 0746, 0824, 0620, 0778	10/30/2024	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Cambria Horton	03/03/2025	
		12/31/2024							
		08/01/2021							
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0890, 0833	08/01/2024	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Tanya York	03/01/2025	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0095	03/01/2025	VR47 – OKC	03/26/2025	Continuous	25-076	Currently Open		
			VR44 –						
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1189	04/15/2025	Stillwater	03/27/2025	Continuous	25-077	Currently Open		
VR	Programs Field Representative / 0540	09/01/2024	VR – TBD	02/11/2025	Continuous	25-067	Currently Open		
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0936	10/17/2013	VR47 – OKC	02/11/2025	Continuous	25-068	Currently Open		
			VR42 –						
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0644	02/20/2025	Poteau	02/19/2025	Continuous	25-069	Currently Open		
			VR07 –						
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0047	01/31/2025	Durant	01/31/2025	Continuous	25-066	Currently Open		
			VR38 –						
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0659	11/30/2024	Okmulgee	01/27/2025	Continuous	25-065	Currently Open		
			VR81 –						
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0437	02/28/2025	Chickasha	01/28/2025	Continuous	25-063	Currently Open		
			VR44 –						
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0124	01/01/2025	Stillwater	01/14/2025	Continuous	25-061	Currently Open		
			VR13 –						
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0356	12/16/2024	McAlester	12/02/2024	Continuous	25-054	Jared Gardner	03/03/2025	
VR	Programs Manager / 1072	12/01/2024	VR – TBD	12/13/2024	Continuous	25-057	Currently Open		
			VR45 –						
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0087	12/20/2024	Tulsa	12/12/2024	Continuous	25-058	Currently Open		
			VR45 –						
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0169	10/01/2024	Tulsa	11/19/2024	Continuous	25-052	Currently Open		
			VR81 –						
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0191	09/19/2024	Chickasha	10/07/2024	Continuous	25-044	Maribel Ramirez Pereyra	03/03/2025	
			VR38 –						
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0440	10/01/2024	Okmulgee	10/29/2024	Continuous	25-049	Currently Open		
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0278	11/01/2024	VR19 – OKC	10/29/2024	Continuous	25-048	Teresa Tyree	03/01/2025	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0366	09/05/2024	VR31 – OKC	09/16/2024	Continuous	25-032	Currently Open		
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0339	02/13/2024	VR63 – Alva	07/10/2024	Continuous	25-005	Currently Open		
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0034	04/30/2023	VR23 – OKC	04/10/2024	Continuous	24-080	Currently Open		
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1190	06/09/2023	VR08 – Enid	06/05/2023	Continuous	23-096	Currently Open		

VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0646	08/01/2022	VR41 – Ponca City	01/24/2024	Continuous	23-038	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0955	10/31/2022	VR80 – Tulsa	11/03/2022	Continuous	23-037	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0567	09/01/2020	VR67 – Tulsa	11/01/2023	Continuous	21-028.1	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0745	02/15/2025	SBVI62 – Muskogee	03/07/2025	Continuous	25-074	Currently Open
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0563	04/01/2017	TBD	10/07/2024	Continuous	25-042	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0582	06/28/2024	SBVI91 – Tulsa	07/29/2024	Continuous	25-017	Currently Open

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 3

As of March 31, 2025

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

Retirement = 1

1 = 30 years 2 months

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Resignation = 1

1 = 8 years 4 months

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Resignation = 1

1 = 6 months

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2025

FTE as of March 31, 2025

<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)	85.3	75.00	5.00	0.00	80.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	238.0	202.00	20.00	(1.00)	221.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired VR/SBVI-DP	115.0	102.00	3.00	(2.00)	103.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	100.5	96.00	5.00	0.00	101.00
	134.0	110.00	18.00	(1.00)	127.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	676.80	589.00	51.00	(4.00)	636.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	342.40	320.00	0.00	(320.00)	320.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	1019.20	909.00	51.00	(324.00)	956.00

FY 25 Budgetary Limit = 1255

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

ROUTING TO: Melinda Freundt, Director
 Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer
 Randy Weaver, Chief of Operations
 Tom Patt, Human Resources Program Director
 Dana Tallon, Public Information Manager II
 Kathleen Arrieta, Executive Assistant
 Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III



Chief Financial Officer's Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

Agency Summary						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	98,019,646.00	49.2%	56,296,468.12	57.4%	40,952,275.19	99.2%
Travel	1,343,060.00	0.7%	908,848.67	67.7%	21,122.96	69.2%
General Operating	29,323,951.00	14.7%	11,693,414.57	39.9%	12,803,948.56	83.5%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,884,330.00	0.9%	401,398.48	21.3%	743,978.99	60.8%
Client / General Assistance	57,456,079.00	28.8%	22,381,282.36	39.0%	29,726,085.21	90.7%
Indirect Cost	11,335,951.00	5.7%	7,022,901.63	62.0%	4,313,049.37	100.0%
Total	199,363,017.00	100.0%	98,704,313.83	49.5%	88,560,460.28	93.9%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

All Programs						
Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	31,341,077.00	32.0%	17,471,525.10	55.7%	13,640,439.41	99.3%
Travel	985,400.00	1.0%	689,485.81	70.0%	450.00	70.0%
General Operating	11,553,369.00	11.8%	4,960,167.46	42.9%	5,821,964.81	93.3%
Office Furniture & Equipment	813,637.00	0.8%	202,218.24	24.9%	302,162.90	62.0%
Client / General Assistance	48,471,079.00	49.5%	18,125,095.72	37.4%	25,190,137.01	89.4%
Indirect Cost	4,669,771.00	4.8%	2,925,340.96	62.6%	1,744,430.04	100.0%
Total	97,834,333.00	100.0%	44,373,833.29	45.4%	46,699,584.17	93.1%
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	28,555,136.00	31.1%	15,793,802.82	55.3%	12,582,239.74	99.4%
Travel	959,400.00	1.0%	667,224.70	69.5%	450.00	69.6%
General Operating	9,640,549.00	10.5%	4,703,172.44	48.8%	4,193,790.96	92.3%
Office Furniture & Equipment	613,131.00	0.7%	140,833.22	23.0%	301,907.90	72.2%
Client / General Assistance	47,709,667.00	52.0%	17,809,019.72	37.3%	24,838,280.19	89.4%
Indirect Cost	4,358,379.00	4.7%	2,725,786.82	62.5%	1,632,592.18	100.0%
Total	91,836,262.00	100.0%	41,839,839.72	45.6%	43,549,260.97	93.0%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,516,825.00	73.1%	4,670,301.52	62.1%	2,719,124.09	98.3%
Travel	68,200.00	0.7%	32,765.13	48.0%	300.00	48.5%
General Operating	1,535,548.00	14.9%	704,964.22	45.9%	861,995.59	102.0%
Office Furniture & Equipment	340,088.00	3.3%	65,456.55	19.2%	165,446.79	67.9%
Client / General Assistance	53,000.00	0.5%	13,026.74	24.6%	0.00	24.6%
Indirect Cost	765,664.00	7.4%	506,561.62	66.2%	259,102.38	100.0%
Total	10,279,325.00	100.0%	5,993,075.78	58.3%	4,005,968.85	97.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,511,523.00	45.7%	5,051,185.87	53.1%	4,351,108.95	98.9%
Travel	140,700.00	0.7%	115,847.24	82.3%	363.71	82.6%
General Operating	9,105,525.00	43.8%	2,822,431.55	31.0%	2,897,903.67	62.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	607,845.00	2.9%	115,046.53	18.9%	276,369.30	64.4%
Client / General Assistance	431,000.00	2.1%	100,981.10	23.4%	178,127.00	64.8%
Indirect Cost	995,725.00	4.8%	590,947.92	59.3%	404,777.08	100.0%
Total	20,792,318.00	100.0%	8,796,440.21	42.3%	8,108,649.71	81.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

All Programs						
Disability Determination Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	40,421,259.00	69.5%	23,945,488.08	59.2%	16,290,164.13	99.5%
Travel	69,500.00	0.1%	18,245.16	26.3%	20,009.25	55.0%
General Operating	4,196,880.00	7.2%	1,939,861.71	46.2%	1,992,629.16	93.7%
Office Furniture & Equipment	43,059.00	0.1%	6,325.83	14.7%	0.00	14.7%
Client / General Assistance	8,501,000.00	14.6%	4,142,178.80	48.7%	4,357,821.20	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,898,302.00	8.4%	2,996,106.53	61.2%	1,902,195.47	100.0%
Total	58,130,000.00	100.0%	33,048,206.11	56.9%	24,562,819.21	99.1%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

All Programs DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,228,962.00	74.9%	5,157,967.55	55.9%	3,951,438.61	98.7%
Travel	79,260.00	0.6%	52,505.33	66.2%	0.00	66.2%
General Operating	2,932,629.00	23.8%	1,265,989.63	43.2%	1,229,455.33	85.1%
Office Furniture & Equipment	79,701.00	0.6%	12,351.33	15.5%	0.00	15.5%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	6,489.00	0.1%	3,944.59	60.8%	2,544.41	100.0%
Total	12,327,041.00	100.0%	6,492,758.43	52.7%	5,183,438.35	94.7%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of February 28, 2025

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



Communications Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services

Office of Communications Report for April 2025

- People with Disabilities Awareness Day
 1. More than 700 attendees
 2. 71 Exhibitors
 3. Nearly 90 volunteers.
 4. TV coverage of OSD and OSB students performing together.
 5. Media blitz with live interviews on KWTW-TV, KOKH-TV, KOCO-TV and a one-hour segment on KTOK-Radio. Interviews included OKDRS client David Joy.
- Statewide media coverage on Oklahoma School for the Deaf, football team receiving senate citation at the state Capitol, and OSD cheerleaders competing in national finals.
- Success Stories: Through the help of Mark Kinnison and Tracy Brigham, we interviewed and wrote several client success stories. Those can be used during legislative visits, as a media pitch and for internal use.
- Met with Executive Director and staff of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters about continuing 20-plus year contract for distribution of OKDRS public service announcements. The ones currently airing have been in rotation for more than two years and need updated.
- Spoke with two different production houses on creation of new PSAs. We will decide on the agency that is most cost-effective, and which closely aligns with our mission. The PSA's will be completed this summer, to go into rotation next fall.
- Social Media: Increased followers and high engagement across most major platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X. Posts are consistent and engaging. Looking at adding Threads to our feed.
- Working with OMES to move communications team to GovDelivery for press release distribution, more closely aligning with the protocol other state agencies are following.
- Restoring Communications as a service hub for all divisions. We are here to help!

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Beutler, Director of Communications



Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Report

**Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Commission Report
April 16, 2025**

New Hires

Programs Manager, Tulsa-- Emma de la Cruz, February 18

Vacancies

2 O&M – Tulsa and tbd

DeafBlind Specialist --- interviews have been on-going; location will be anywhere statewide

Leadership

Allison Freeman and Charity Woods successfully completed the Lead VR 2025 National Training Academy through University of Arkansas Currents. LeadVR is a leadership program that provides opportunities over an eight month period in a series of live, interactive online training and professional development modules for aspiring frontline workers and mid-level managers. Sessions offer participants the opportunity to explore the current and future face of VR leadership and organizational change along with coaching, development of behavioral change plans and team project work.

Field Services

As of March 31, 2025, the production totals for SBVI (to include DeafBlind) field services programs are:

Apps = 198 Average of 38 days from application to eligibility (standard = 60 days)
Plans = 142 Average of 46 days from eligibility to plan (standard = 90 days)
Closures = 51 Successfully employed

The average wage of successful outcomes as of March 31, 2025 = \$17.54
The average number of hours per week worked = 37

OIB (independent living)

Apps = 99 Average of 38 days from application to eligibility
Plans = 81 Average of 52 days from eligibility to plan
Goals Met = 61

O&M actual service hours = 914

*Summer VIBE is being planned. Residential training programs will be held on the campus of OSB in Muskogee. VIBE instructors are comprised of SBVI instructional staff, counselors and OSB staff. There are also guest speakers throughout the programs.

The dates are:

Adult VIBE: June 16-25

July 14-18

Transition VIBE: June 22-27

*SBVI staff continue to participate in DRS/DDS meetings as part of the collaboration to provide services to clients who come off DDS's wait list

*Employment First Task Force—participation by the DA's, Teresa McDermott, Terri Murphy, Janie Fugitt and Melinda Bunch; This task force was created by Representative Ellyn Hefner for stakeholders to provide input on the strengths and challenges to be addressed within an Employment First state plan. The transition away from the payment of subminimum wages under 14c will also be addressed in this task force.

*Working with the ORC Employment Committee to develop Self-Employment training for the DRS Counselors and PM's. The training will be on a set of modules to utilize with clients seeking self-employment. Part of this program, as created by the ORC Employment Committee, will also include a business panel to review client business plans for viability.

*DA's are working with the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) and DHS/DDS on training for DRS Counselors, PM's, DDS staff and dual providers to bring new ideas and fresh perspective to service provision.

*Tribal Training—DA's, ORC, Jon Ringlero and the Tribes are working to provide a training for DRS PM's and Counselors and the Tribal VR programs to continue the partnership and a high level of service provision.

*SBVI staff, along with VR staff, attended the OKTVR (Oklahoma Tribal VR program) meeting in Tulsa. These regular meetings provide a forum in which the DRS staff can meet with tribal VR staff to collaborate, plan and discuss methods of service delivery to impact the lives of those clients who are being jointly served by both programs.

*Instructional Staff continue with support groups in areas across the state. They set up speakers and provide topics that are helpful in a variety of areas.

*SBVI staff have been attending Regional IMPACT Meetings with our Business Services Unit across the state. These meetings are designed to strengthen relationships with employers in each part of the state.

*SBVI/VR celebration was held February 27-28 to recognize the many accomplishments of our divisional employees. It had been 10 years since the last celebration. This celebration was the result of the work of the

Organizational Change and Culture Change Team. All of the Change Teams continue meeting and working.

SBVI 2025 Award winners:

Manager of the Year: Cheryl Snow
Counselor of the Year: Brian Montgomery
Support Specialist of the Year: Tammy Randles
Leadership: Kat Jensen
Direct Impact: Magan Rowan
Ripple Effect: Emilie Stufflebeam
Oklahoma Spirit: Alex Taussig
Angel Award: Mable Stripling
Lifetime Achievement: Teresa McDermott
Award of Merit: Merlyn Romero (SBVI and VR)
Rookie of the Year: Hannah Dangle
Rookie of the Year: Tracy Keeley (SBVI and VR)
Bridge Builder: Kevin Randall (SBVI and VR)
Unit of the Year: OLBPH---Kevin Treese, Pepper Watson, Andrew Shockley, Kat Jensen, Marka Simms, Lacey Downs, Kaitlyn Evans, Sarah Knight, Collin Jenks, Cynthia Stokes, Dominique Washington, Jack Fox, Mable Stripling, Melanie Ulfers, Scott See, Steve Dowdy, Troy Small and Erin Byrne
Unit of the Year: Statewide Transition Team---Renee Briscoe, Kevin Randall, Chris Compton, Tracy Keeley, Jessie Renteria and Porsheana Brown (SBVI and VR)

*PWDAD was held March 11. SBVI employees volunteered, served as legislative liaisons and met with legislators and staffers to educate them about DRS.

Community Events/Meetings:
Lawton OK Works Fair; Cameron Job Fair; PWDAD/legislative visits; Metro Tech Community Resource Fair; DDCO Listening Session; Ponca City Vision Support Group; WORKlahoma Job Fair; OAER; AER; ECU Career Fair

Presentations:
St Catherine's Church; Okarche Lion's Club; Veteran's Coffee Social at the Oklahoma Military History Exhibit

AT Services

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Assessments	23	24	17
Trainings	25	56	45
Training Hours	46	93	79

*SBVI AT Unit attended the Assistive Technology Industry Associates (ATIA) conference to connect with AT practitioners, teachers and people with disabilities and to discover new technologies, opportunities and creative ideas that support the empowerment of clients with blindness and low vision.

*AT employees attended ABLE Tech's Tech Access Symposium and the WORKlahoma Job Fair

BEP

*A new training program has begun with 8 trainees.

*BEP employees and Licensed Vendors attended the Sagebrush training conference. This training is sponsored by the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America organization and explored business resources, marketing strategies, training opportunities and employee benefits for Licensed Blind Vendors, including those engaged in vending machine operations, cafeterias, military dining facilities, snack bars, gift shops and other retail businesses.

OLBPH

*At the awards celebration the Library won SBVI Unit of the year! Also, Kat Jensen won Leadership Award and Mable Stripling won the Angel Award.

*Work is still in progress on the HVAC. Chillers are arriving soon and air handlers ship the first week of May. The project is still on track to be completed by the end of May. Work will also begin on all outdoor lighting to be replaced with LED's and new wiring.

Duplication on Demand (DoD)

SFY '25 as of 03/25 = 236,038

AIM Center

SFY '25 as of 03/25 Students Birth to 3 years = 1,054 Students PreK to Grade 12 = 996

The Prison Braille Program continues to be a successful collaboration. The braille stats for the entire month of March 2024 = 2 and for just the first week of March 2025 = 61!!

Business Services

- * IMPACT meetings
- *Regional Roundtable Meetings
- *WB Meetings
- *AJC Partners Meetings
- *Chamber of Commerce meetings
- *Facts and Snacks
- *Ready, Set, Hired Job Fair—hosted by DRS, ORC, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, University Outreach National Center for Disability Education Training the University of Oklahoma to connect top businesses with DRS job seekers and provide workshops including resume assistance.

Division Administrator Activities:

The DRS team continues work with VR TAC-QM for assistance with the RSA Monitoring Report CAP.

VRTAC-QM ITAA Meetings; Randolph-Sheppard Meetings; NCSAB Executive Committee Meetings; Randolph-Sheppard Priority Meetings; DRS/DDS meetings; NTACTION Meetings; ORC; ORC Executive Committee; NCSAB Conference Planning; Performance Review Meetings; CSAVR Customer Service for Adults Committee; VRTAC-QM; Change Leader Meetings; Randolph-Sheppard Calls; FC/PM Meetings; DRS/DDS Sequencing of Services; Commission Meetings; DRS ETeam Meetings; Recruitment and Retention Planning Meeting; New Employee Academy Presentation; DDSD Waiver Language Meeting; Administrative Rules Meeting; OKTVR; OLBPH HVAC Meetings; CSAVR/NCSAB; FC/PM Meeting; OLBPH HVAC Meetings; Meetings with Director; BEP Coordinator meetings; Employment First Taskforce; RSA Team 4 Technical Assistance; Contract Driver meetings; State Use Committee; ICI Training Meetings

Report respectfully submitted by Tracy Brigham, SBVI Division Administrator
April 16, 2025



Transition Services Report

Commission Report for Transition Updates January – March 2025 (summer and beyond)

Pre-ETS Updates

Transition continues to maintain relationships and provide resources around the state to and with our pre-ETS. The 31 (and growing) Pre-Employment Transition Specialists are still currently working with students and schools on providing pre-ETS services in over 250 schools, including Central Tech and Kiamichi Tech. The 6 work skills trainers through the pre-ETS contract are increasing inclusion in the communities and competitive integrated workplaces. COWIB also has 2 of these workers for the school year and they continue to work with the IPSE programs as well as other pre-ETS programs around the state. This will allow students to work during high school and gain work experience with some support.

1. Pre-ETS from Central Tech and Kiamichi - We continue to grow this program 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. They have a staff of 8 providing services and supporting pre-ETS. Kiamichi Tech Center began pre-ETS 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 pre-ETS providing these services to potentially eligible and DRS clients.

The pre-ETS contract continues to work with Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ) and Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma (DASCO). We are also working with FeedMeGems, formerly known as HairCandybyHan with the Work Based Learning model in Edmond. She has hired 2 Sparkle Stylists for the WBL experience. She plans on expanding and hiring others. Bridges in Tulsa are utilizing this opportunity for those surrounding schools as well. We have had discussions with other possible employers such as Okie Goods and Kendall's Restaurant to expand opportunities

- a. Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ), FeedMeGems, and Bridges have a contract for Work Based Learning where students participating in a work-based learning experience is essential to empowering students with a disability to develop job skills, realize the benefits of earned income, explore different types of employment and work environments, and gain experience with competitive integrated employment. We are reimbursing employers for those work-based learning opportunities based on hours worked, not to exceed 120 hours in one year.

- b. DSACO has a self-advocacy center where they have a staff that delivers pre-ETS activities to those students throughout the year.
- c. We have multiple businesses who are interested in working with the WBL opportunities with DRS. Contracts and TC are working on a WBL contract to be able to serve more businesses in Oklahoma. We are in discussion with:
 - i. Safe Haven Canine Rescue
 - ii. PT clinic
 - iii. Vet Clinic

Staff Updates

Porsheana Brown is a new member of my team, including Kevin Randall, Chris Compton, Tracy Keeley, and Jessie Renteria. Porsheana will serve the Northwest region of the state in providing support and growing programs in those areas. She has hit the ground running and has already made great connections with VR offices, pre-ETS, and schools in those areas. I cannot wait to watch the continued growth within Transition. She will be housed in the OKC Frates Building on Lincoln with the other DRS staff.

Porsheana has been with the agency for 5 years working in the Stillwater office as a Transition and Adult Counselor. She also has experience working with Mental Health and Substance Abuse as well as behavioral counseling. Porsheana continues to advocate for people with disabilities and provide support and guidance to staff and stakeholders. We are lucky to have Porsheana and she is a great addition to our team! Also, to be able to cover the NW region of the state is gold!!!

We have interviewed and selected the last position of Programs Field Rep (PFR) to fill the team for the Southwest region of the state. We are waiting for the final word to be able to hire. Looking for a May start date! This will place a PFR in EACH quadrant of the state to provide support and offer more opportunities to the entire state! How exciting!!

Conference Presentation / Poster

Tracy Keeley and TC presented a poster session at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conference in March. The information presented was a team effort to get the summer program stats out there. Very proud of Tracy Keeley for the mind behind the submission of the proposal and for getting selected for a poster out of 1,000 plus submissions.

From 2023 to 2024 – we saw an increase in numbers across the board for summer. Below are the numbers shared.

Youth served from 2023 was 336. Youth served in 2024 was 413. That is an increase of 22.92%.

The number of counties served in 2023 was 17. The number of counties served in 2024 was 22. That is an increase of 29.41%.

The number of locations in 2023 was 21. The number of locations in 2024 were 30. That is an increase of 42.86%.

Partner employers from 2023 were 194. Partner employers from 2024 were 248. That is an increase of 27.84%.

STEP Interns from 2023 was 262. STEP Interns from 2024 were 361. That is an increase of 37.79%.

COWIB and SWB Internship hours worked for 2023 was 17,132. The COWIB and SWB Internship hours worked for 2024 was 26,007. That is an increase of 51.80%.

iDRS Transition Page

Chris Compton has begun the process of updating the Transition page on the iDRS page for all internal staff. He will be keeping that information updated from this point forward.

Peer Mentoring

- a. National Center for Disability Education and Training (NCDET) and the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) continue the peer mentoring program, adapted from Peer MentoringWorks, for mentees (high-school students) aged 16-21 and mentors aged 18-26. Peer Mentoring - one-on-one relationship building between students and pre-ETS or previous/current DRS clients or a person with a disability sharing knowledge and experience, promoting encouragement, offering problem solving skills, serving as a positive role model as well as providing an opportunity to learn from different perspectives.
 1. Pre-ETS Specialist, Peer Mentoring Coordinator, vacant currently, but there have been job postings for a new coordinator. We have several undergrad students who are current or previous DRS clients/pre-ETS clients, OU students or other students with disabilities.

School Work Study (SWS) Contracts

School Work Study contracts are being sent in steadily. We already have, as of March 26th, 319 contracts that have been signed for FY25. Usually, we have that many at the end of the renewal season and last year we had 314 in June! Chris Compton keeps that information updated and does all the send outs!

Work Adjustment Training (WAT) Contracts

Work Adjustment Training Contracts are growing. We have 15 contracts as of March 26th, that have come back signed for FY25. We have several inquiries from schools across the state to begin WAT contracts. Those who have reached out are Bios, 4RKids, Tulsa, Sand Springs, Gatesway, Bethany, Durant, Noble, Broken Arrow, Muskogee – help with OSB, and some rural areas. Kevin Randall, Tracy Keeley, and Porsheana Brown are working with the schools on their proposals to submit to DRS for approval.

Project Search

We currently have ten sites beginning the 2024-2025 school year and we have approximately 70 students that are serving this year. We have a new opportunity in Ada, Ardmore, Lawton, and Duncan that is still being discussed!! We are looking forward to more opportunities!! We are on the move. Also, we had a meeting with Tinker AFB about a Project SEARCH, and they are very interested. Ardmore and Ada will begin Project SEARCH in the fall of 2026, if not sooner.

Programming Updates

OSU-IDD - Self-Determination Training Program

This program has completed year 1. They changed the name to just OSU-IDD Self Determination Training. We currently have 12 in the program currently.

Micro-Credentialing – ABLE Tech

ABLE Tech is still working through the needs of the micro-credentialing contract with DRS. Pre-ETS are being involved to be able to share this opportunity with youth. Super exciting times.

Oklahoma Inclusive Postsecondary Education – (OKIPSE)

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

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

We continue conversations with Julie Lackey and other CTE's to begin the process of having IPSE programs in the CTE's. OCCC received a portion of the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) to be able to have a pilot program at a Community College. Very exciting!!

Competitive Employability Readiness Training (CERT) Culinary

- Tulsa Technology Center CERT Culinary participants continue in the hospitality program learn how to work as a culinary assistant. The program provides them with technical training and experience in a variety of service occupations through hospitality curriculum.
- **A New Leaf**
DRS continues to work with A New Leaf to provide those services to DRS clients.
- **National Peer Mentoring Project**
TC continues to work with the mentor program.

DHS/OJA/DMHSAS – MOUs

MOUs continue to be written and created to provide support and services to students in DHS and OJA custody and other partners with different homeless alliances, Mental Health, and shelters in OKC and Tulsa. We continue more

partnerships/initiatives around the state for the homeless, foster youth, Mental Health (including Red Rock), and DHS/ OJA custody.

Payne Education Center

A new contract has been developed to provide Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALTs) to students who have developmental dyslexia, a specific learning disability in reading, or severe reading deficiencies. The purpose of this reading therapy is to enable students to achieve and maintain better word recognition, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and aid in the transition from a therapy setting to “real world” learning.

ReadWrite Center

A new contract has been developed for the ReadWrite as another type of training to provide another option for dyslexia evaluations and therapy.

Mathnasium

TC is working with JK Moon and his wife on a workplace readiness program that will be related to financial literacy. The goal would be to help those students, aged 14-21, with pre-employment skills in a structured program that would include direct instruction in financial literacy by Mathnasium instructors, using our robust curriculum. The exact parameters of this program are to be determined. This also brings the ability to partner with Mathnasium to work with DRS to provide braille opportunities for this training. Currently, there is not an option for that. Tracy Brigham and TC have had conversations and will be working with others to see the possibilities. The contract will begin 10/1/25.

Summer Program Review:

This Summer 2025 Transition Services of DRS (including pre-ETS activities, VR/SBVI Counselors, Workforce, Transition Program Field Reps, Pre-ETS specialists, and Work Skills Trainers) increased the skill sets of individuals with disabilities for successful employment around the state. Below are the results for Spring/Summer 2025.

- a. Science Technology Engineering Mathematics – STEM camps –
 1. 6 Camps are scheduled for the summer – in person in Ada, Skiatook, Davis, Noble, Waukomis, and Tulsa. We are currently taking applications for each STM camp.
- b. Building Employment Skills for Today (BEST) followed by Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP). We plan on having 31 BEST STEP programs around the state including Kiamichi Tech and Central Tech. Dates of BEST were held in June and several BEST only programs will be held in July. For BEST STEP, we had 778 applications for BEST STEP. We are whittling down the final numbers for each camp currently. Last year we had 500 applications

and 413 students. Tulsa alone had over 100 students apply for BEST STEP, so we will have 3 different BEST STEP programs in Tulsa. We are looking forward to a successful summer and new numbers for summer 2025. Our partnerships will include 1 workforce development board (COWIB), 3 Post-secondary institutions (pre-ETS teams), and we are working on growing our employer list for this summer. Wanting to surpass 248 STEP employers.

1. BEST is one week of instruction - BEST provided opportunities to prepare students with disabilities, both DRS clients and potentially eligible students, ages 16-21, for real life jobs, careers, and situations. Engaging youth in job search activities, work readiness, access to employment and vocational opportunities, making networking/social connections and pre-employment transition skills (pre-ETS).
 2. STEP is 4 weeks of paid work experience - STEP was the employment piece of the summer program. Teachers and paras were hired to assist with development and being a job skills trainer to ensure these students are getting the help needed in the community on the job. Students working during the summer got wages paid through Central Oklahoma Workforce Board (COWIB) partner.
 3. Guest speakers were included again during the BEST portion of the camp during the lunch hour.
 4. Please check out the resources and information to see where applications are coming from. You can click on the link below to see more. [BEST STEP Portal](#)
 5. Jessie Renteria took time to make individual applications for EACH student who marked that they wanted DRS services. She printed off the applications, printed off a page that showed where the office nearest to them was along with the phone numbers and mailed out 114 applications to potential DRS clients. We are so fortunate to have Jessie on our team!!
- c. We are in the process of working for summer 2025. The applications are closed for BEST STEP 2025. The applications will open back up on November 1st, 2025.
- d. Sooner Works Summer Academy will be held in June at OU again this summer. It is a residential summer college experience for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) on the University of Oklahoma (OU) campus and DRS. DRS supported 15 students. These students are current high school students who have completed the 10th grade (estimated ages 15-20) and are DRS clients or potentially eligible students with disabilities ("participating students") interested in attending a postsecondary education program with an emphasis on interest in PSE program. Looking to have 15 – 20 students for this summer.

- e. Visually Impaired Blindness Empowerment (VIBE)
 1. The Transitional VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration. This one-week program is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce, and independent living to the best of their ability. They learned Independent Living Skills, Communication Skills, Team Building, Travel/transportation, Career and Job Exploration, Interviews, Technology, Resume Skills, Exploration of College/Career and Tech/Workforce. The pre-ETS specialists will continue to be involved in this as well. We have 3 students who will attend VIBE and get the opportunity to do STEP in their own community.

Transition Newsletter

If you have not subscribed to our external Transition Newsletter, please do. The subscription link is located at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/OKDRS/subscriber/new>. We always need Success Stories. Please send your leads stories / names to Tracy, Kevin, Porsheana, and Chris for the Newsletters. **We have reached 3,206 subscribers as of March 1st, 2025.**

Meetings and Activities

1. TC has attended many Best STEP Meetings with staff, Business Services COWIB Meetings, CSAVR transition committee meetings, NCSAB committee meetings, Joining Forces Planning Meetings, School presentations and fairs, Down Syndrome Association Central Oklahoma meetings, OCCY Strengthening and Youth Custody Meetings, Project SEARCH meetings and partners meetings, Cimarron Public Transit board meetings, counselor / tech check-in meetings, Career Pathways meetings, OTC Meetings, NTACTION CTE/SpEd/VR Meetings, Pre-ETS Blindness CoP, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma Meetings, Collaborate for Change meetings, RSA – OPC Advisory Board meetings, CREOKS DRS WAT contract for OSB meetings, OSD and OSB quarterly meetings, Pre-VR meetings, VR TAC Meetings, Choctaw Nation meetings to expand transition services, Policy Committee meetings, OU special education / transition department meetings in class, OKIPSE meetings, Cape Youth meetings, CSAW meetings, CSAT meetings, DDS / DRS meetings, Micro-Credentialing meetings with ABLE Tech, OU Zarrow, DCDT meetings, CBI meetings for the state plan for Oklahoma, conferences, and Education and Training Subcommittee Meetings.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thank you so much,

Respectfully submitted: Renee Sansom Briscoe



Oklahoma School for the Deaf Report

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Report for the DRS Commission
April 16, 2025
Dr. Heather Laine
Superintendent

We had a very busy and exciting fall semester, filled with numerous learning opportunities and engaging activities/events for the students.

January:

17-19 - Hosted Boys Division II basketball tournament with a total of 8 schools. Our Boys Basketball Team won the championship.

22- Our small group of high school students participated in Youth Leadership Murray County along with students from Davis and Sulphur High Schools.

24-26 - Middle School Math Team went to Texas School for the Deaf for the math competition and placed in the top four to go to the National in late March/April.

30 - School was closed due to a virus outbreak among students and staff. April 25 is the day to make up for the loss instructional minutes.

February -

18-20 was the virtual learning for our students and teachers due to the inclement weather.

26 - Our football team went to the capitol for senate recognition on their accomplishments (GPSD Championship and NDIAA Championship three-peat).

March -

6-9 - Our cheerleading team traveled to New York for the National Deaf Cheer Competition and won the championship for the Division II.

24 - High school students had a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Dallas as a part of their two week cross-curricular theme.

25 - Elementary students had a field trip to a farm owned by a deaf family in Stratford. It was an amazing experience where the students enjoyed learning all about their cattle with the grandson who is deaf and use sign language to communicate. Middle school students went in April then High school students this coming Thursday.

April -

4-6 - Our middle school math team went to New York for the national math competition. They did not place in the top 10 but their effort is recognized.

11-13 Track competition for High school at Texas School for the Deaf

11-13- Drone competition for our OSD Drone Team in Tulsa, OK for the Nationals.

State testing is scheduled for students to take the tests.

May 2025- Upcoming

2-4 Esports Competition in New York. One team will go and compete for the Nationals. This is the first time. We implemented Esports this year.

6 - National Honor Society Induction

6- All Sports Athletic Banquet at 5:30pm

12 - 8th Grade Recognition

13 - Prom

20 - Awards Day for High School and Middle School

20 - Senior Walk at 1pm

21 - Class of 2026 Graduation

22 -Last day of School for the students

23- Last day for the teachers.

June 2025 - Upcoming

8-11 Summer Camp for Elementary


9-11 - High School Basketball Camp

15- 20 - Summer Camp for Middle and High School

24 - 26 - High School Basketball Camp

OSD News as of April 16, 2025:

- The construction of the Football Field has begun. Everyone at OSD and the community are excited to see this happening. It has been a long dream for everyone.
- Our Family Engagement and Early Language Supports hosted their first family weekend retreat at the Chickasaw Retreat Center on March 28-30 . We had 18 families in attendance. It was an awesome experience. This could have not been possible without the support of Oklahoma Early Hearing Detection & Intervention using the HRSA grant. We had positive feedback from parents.
 - *During this retreat I was able to meet other families that have been impacted by hearing loss. I feel less alone now! This journey has been difficult to navigate as we are so new to it, but I have met a few people that I can now reach out to that have a similar story to ours!*
 - *The workshops were very informative, interactive, and fun. We loved meeting other families and learning about their different dynamics. This was an amazing experience for our family!*
 - *I feel more comfortable teaching my son now that I have the tools needed to understand what he needs.*
 - *Really enjoyed getting to know the other families enrolled in this program and their stories.*
- We are getting ready for the next six busy weeks as we approach the end of the school year.



Oklahoma School for the Deaf Donation Report

OSB DONATION REPORT

March 2025 Donations

Donations under \$500

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
3/27/2025	Clark's Tile & Remodeling / Casting Beyond Sight	\$ 100.00	701		
3/27/2025	Laughing Donkey Ranch / Casting Beyond Sight	\$ 250.00	701		
3/27/2025	KiBois Comm. Action Found. / Casting Beyond Sight	\$ 250.00	701		

Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in March 2025	\$ 600.00		Subtotal prop.	\$ -
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Donations \$500 and over

	\$ -			
3/27/2025	Cherokee Nation / Rec	\$ 3,332.85	701	

Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in March 2025	\$ 3,332.85		Subtotal prop.	\$ -
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TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS March - 2025	\$3,932.85			
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Oklahoma School for the Blind Report



Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Donation Report

OLBPH March 2025 Donations

Donations under \$500				
DATE	NAME	CASH	PROPERTY	VALUE
03/17/2025	Women of the Moose, Enid Chapter (#1587)	\$50		
Subtotal of Donations Under \$500		\$50		

Donations \$500 and over				
DATE	NAME	CASH	PROPERTY	VALUE
03/07/2025	All Souls Unitarian Church	\$1,094		
Subtotal of Donations \$500 and over		\$1,094		

Total Donation Amount	\$1,144
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Commission Minutes



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Commissioner Flannery with a quorum. Present: Theresa Flannery, Commission Chair and Dr. Janet Barresi, Commission Vice-Chair.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Commission Assistant Kathleen Arrieta confirmed the Commission for Rehabilitation Services follows the Open Meetings Act.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director

Presentation of the Director's Certificate of Appreciation.

Director Fruendt presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Renee Khan, a rehabilitation tech in the Tulsa office, who has taken on extra duties while a colleague was absent due to an extended illness. Ms. Khan was nominated by Tracy Brigham, Division Administrator for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) Division.

Presentation of the 2024 Executive Director's Award.

Director Fruendt presented the Executive Director award to the following:

- Courtney Jennings, Vocational Counselor, has advanced from a temporary employee to a Vocational Counselor in just five years. She was nominated by Mark Kinnison for her use of all available resources for her clients to ensure their success.
- Tonya Garman, Executive Coordinator, embraces new opportunities with enthusiasm, and seeks ways to reach underserved populations. She is a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities and draws from her own experiences to inspire and drive change.

Emergency Declaration - On March 4th one of the boilers at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf broke and could not be repaired. Director Fruendt declared an emergency and notified the Commission. The approximate cost for replacing the boiler and doing minor repairs on the other boiler is \$65 to \$70K.

SPOTLIGHT ON STEPHANIE GLYNN, OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND STUDENT

Superintendent Pearce introduced Ms. Glynn, who is a freshman at OSB. She recently authored an e-book which she then entered in the Regional Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competition, where she placed first. She will soon compete at the State level.

Ms. Glynn briefly explained the process of writing the book in accordance with the rules of the competition. She then read the book, which centers around a cardinal bird explaining the seasons to other animals, to the meeting attendees.

PRESENTATION OF LONGEVITY CERTIFICATES

Theresa Flannery, Acting Chair

The Commission presented a longevity award to Lizzy Chacko, Human Resource Management Specialist, 40 years with DRS.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Kevin Statham, CFO

- Financial Status Report for FY 2025. As of January 31, 2025, the agency spent \$85.3M of the \$199M budget, with remaining encumbrances of \$99.8M which represent 92.9% of the budget.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison

Two bills, HB2387 and SB 770, both of which increase the number of members on the Rehabilitation Services Commission from 3 to 7, passed out of Committees. On Monday, March 10th, the House Bill passed the House floor and has moved into the Senate. The deadline is March the 27th for the Senate bill to pass.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL REPORT

Sidna Madden-Trimnell, Executive Director

- Effective August 1, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL) terminated Progressive Independence Inc. (PI) in Norman, OK, from the Centers for Independent Living program. PI filed an appeal, but ACL upheld the decision. A second appeal is in progress, with an update to follow.
- The State Plan, submitted in June, was conditionally approved with requests for language changes regarding center closures.
- SILC and attorney Kevin Nelson are addressing ongoing Open Meetings Act issues, including a lack of virtual meeting accommodations for board members with disabilities. A bill, supported by Representative Cantrell, allowing virtual SILC meetings while adhering to OMA guidelines, passed committee and is heading to the house floor.

OKLAHOMA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (ORC)

Carolina Colclasure, Program Manager

- The ORC Federal FY2024 Annual Report was submitted on time to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Governor's office.
- A Tribal Vocational training project with the Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Council is being planned for the summer of 2025.
- The Oklahoma Transition Council is planning the Oklahoma Transition Institute in Tulsa.
- The Employment Committee hosted a successful "Careers in Demand" webinar on January 28.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Tom Patt, HR Director

Randy Weaver, COO, gave the Personnel Activity Report in Tom Patt's absence.

- As of February 28, 2025: 4 vacant positions were filled; 51 positions were open. There were eight separations which included retirements, resignations, and discharges. There were 956 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) REPORT

Mark Kinnison, Division Administrator

Priority Group Update as of March 10, 2025

- 14 clients were released off the Priority Group 3 waitlist on March 5th.
- Priority Groups 1 and 2 are open.
- Priority Group 3 is closed, clients waiting: 2.
Total clients on waiting list: 2.

Portal Referral Update:

- Received 49 applications:
 - 24 active referrals.
 - 17 referrals pending assignment.
 - 4 new applications taken.
 - 2 closed – refused service.
 - 2 closed – other reasons.
- Staff attended the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) 2025 Spring Conference. The report on states' performance measures included:
 - Measurable Skill Gains Rate – The national average was 52%, and Oklahoma VR had a rate of 72.5% which was 5th in the nation.
 - Second-quarter employment rate: Oklahoma at 56%, national average at 54.6%.
- As of March 3, 2025, the production totals for the employment programs are ahead of last year's total, currently with 1,867 applications. The average wage on successful outcomes is \$17.00, with an average of 34 hours per week worked.

- The VR Awards & Recognition ceremony was held at Francis Tuttle Technology Career Tech in February with over 200 attendees.
- Site visits were conducted to assess accessibility at locations in Altus, Woodward, Enid, Weatherford, Ponca City, Stillwater, and Guymon.

OKLAHOMA TRIBAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (OKTVR)

COUNCIL *Jon Ringlero, DRS Tribal Liaison*

- American Indian VR services are funded by Dept. of Education discretionary grants. Ten programs in Oklahoma are funded by grants averaging \$500k/year for 5 years. Cooperative agreements are in place with all tribal programs.
- Some tribes (Comanche, Delaware, Iowa, Wichita) have transition counselors for youth services.
- DRS works on creating strong referral processes with tribes. Clients can be referred back to tribal programs for culturally relevant services. Development of cultural training for DRS counselors is underway.
- Out of approximately 10,000 clients in DRS, about 900 self-identify as Native American.
- Tribal counselors attend DRS Academy for training.

OVERVIEW OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS (CAPS)

Stephanie Roe, Project Coordinator

OC-C 2021 Section 107 Pre-Ets CAP

The agency initially fell short of the required 15% expenditure, spending only 11% in FY21, with an additional 4% in reserves. Although the issue dated back to FY21, the corrective action plan wasn't issued until mid-2023 and was finally approved in early 2024. The agency was notified just today that 15% was expended, therefore all the corrective actions have been met and the CAP was closed.

OC-C FFY 2023 Monitoring CAP

In May 2023, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) conducted on-site monitoring which resulted in a CAP focused on both performance and financial management of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and supported employment programs. The final monitoring report was published in April 2024, and the organization's response was approved in July. Progress has been steady, with two additional findings resolved in the latest quarterly update and anticipation of closing several more in the next. The RSA has provided ongoing guidance, and quarterly updates continue to be shared with leadership.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 12, 2025, COMMISSION MEETING

Theresa Flannery, Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2025, Commission meeting as submitted. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (OSB)

Brent Pearce, Superintendent

The donations for January 2025 totaled \$5,700.00, and the donations for February 2025 totaled \$1,340.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to accept the January and February 2025 OSB donations. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (OSD)

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

Director Fruendt gave the donation report in Dr. Laine's absence. The donations for January 2025 totaled \$850.00 and the donations for February 2025 totaled \$2,146.99.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to accept the January and February 2025 OSD donations. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (OLBPH)

Kevin Treese, Program Manager, SBVI

The donations for January 2025 totaled \$100.00 and there were no donations for February.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to accept the January 2025 OSD donations. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURN

Theresa Flannery, Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to adjourn. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.