



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Handed out at the May 14, 2025 Meeting

Disability Determination Services

The Social Security Disability Program in Oklahoma



PO Box 24400, Oklahoma City, OK 73124

o: 405 419-2200 | f: 855-571-4856 | Oklahoma.gov | okdrs.gov

Executive Director Melinda Fruendt

Commissioners Janet C. Barresi DDS, Theresa Flannery and Kelsey Lee



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Regulations

Basic Responsibilities

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability programs. SSA employs the services of state Disability Determination Services (DDS) to make disability and blindness determinations on behalf of the Commissioner for individuals living in each state.

In Oklahoma, the Department of Rehabilitation Services is the parent agency for the Disability Determination Services.

The Regulations governing the relationship between SSA and the DDS are found in two separate places in Title 20, Code of Federal Regulations Chapter III.

Part 404, Subpart Q (Sections 404.1601 through 404.1694)

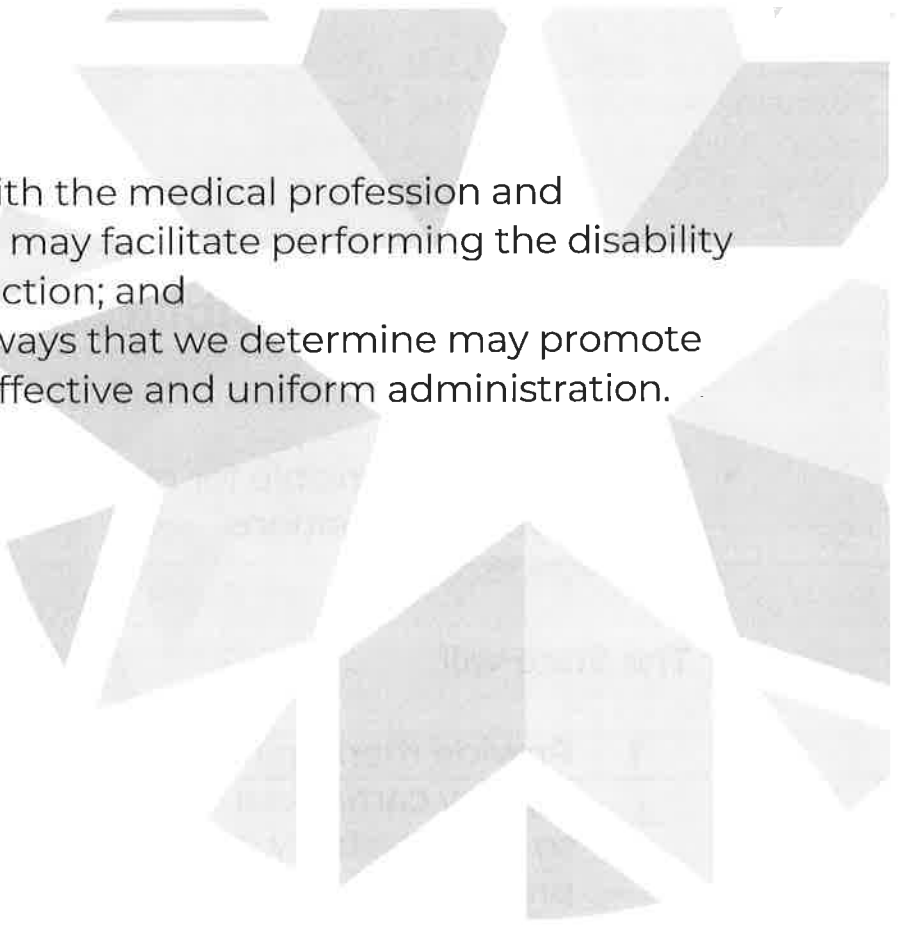
Part 416, Subpart J (Sections 416.1001 through 415.1094)

The language in these sections is identical. One section pertains to Title II of the Social Security Act, and the other to Title XVI of the Act. (Note: Title II relates to Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and Title XVI to Supplemental Security Income benefits.) The duplication is required because, although the programs fall under separate titles, they have many similarities including the fact that they are administered by the same agency, SSA.

The following are excerpts from Part 404 of the regulations and have been reorganized for clarity.

Responsibility of the State

- The State is responsible for making accurate and prompt disability determinations.
CFR 404.1620(b)
- The State will:
 1. Provide management needed to ensure that the State agency carries out the disability determination function so that disability determinations are made accurately and promptly;
 2. Provide an organizational structure, adequate facilities, qualified personnel, medical consultant services, and a quality assurance function;
 3. Furnish reports and records relating to the administration of the disability program;
 4. Submit budgets;
 5. Cooperate with audits;
 6. Insure that all applicants for and recipients of disability benefits are treated equally and courteously;
 7. Be responsible for property used for disability program purposes;
 8. Take part in the research and demonstration projects;
 9. Coordinate with other agencies;
 10. Safeguard the records created by the State in performing the disability determination function;
 11. Comply with other provisions of the Federal law and regulations that apply to the State in performing the disability determination function;
 12. Comply with other written guidelines;

- 
13. Maintain liaison with the medical profession and organizations that may facilitate performing the disability determination function; and
 14. Assist us in other ways that we determine may promote the objectives of effective and uniform administration.

CFR 404.1603 (c)

Selected Additional Requirements

Personnel

- The State will make personnel available to attend meetings or workshops as may be sponsored or approved by us for furthering the purposes of the disability program.
CFR 404.1621(c)
- Subject to appropriate Federal funding, the State will, to the best of its ability, facilitate the processing of disability claims by avoiding personnel freezes, restrictions against overtime work, or curtailment of facilities or activities.
CFR 404.1621(d)

Facilities

- The State will permit us access to the premises where the disability determination function is performed and where it is managed for the purposes of inspecting and obtaining information about the work and activities required by our regulations and assuring compliance with pertinent Federal statutes and regulations.
CFR 404.1623(c)

Fiscal

- The State may not incur or make expenditures for items of cost not approved by us or in excess of the amount we make available to the State.
CFR 404.1626(d)
- Any monies paid to the State which are used for purposes not within the scope of these regulations will be paid back to the Treasury of the United States.
CFR 404.1626(f)

Responsibility of the Social Security Administration

- We will work with the State to provide and maintain an effective system for processing claims of those who apply for and who are receiving benefits under the disability program. We will provide program standards, leadership, and oversight. We do not intend to become involved in the State's ongoing management of the program except as is necessary and in accordance with these regulations. The State will comply with our regulations and other written guidelines.
CFR 404.1603(a)

- The Social Security Administration will:
 1. Periodically review the regulations and other written guidelines to determine whether they insure effective and uniform administration of the disability program. To the extent feasible, we will consult with and take into consideration the experience of the States in issuing regulations and guidelines necessary to insure effective and uniform administration of the disability program;
 2. Provide training materials or in some instances conduct or specify training;
 3. Provide funds to the State agency for the necessary cost of performing the disability determination function;
 4. Monitor and evaluate the performance of the State agency under the established standards;
 5. Maintain liaison with the medical profession nationally and with national organizations and agencies whose interests or activities may affect the disability program.CFR 404.1603(b)



The Determination Process

Sequential Evaluation

Social Security regulations define disability as the inability to do any Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death, or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

The DDS uses SSA's five steps of sequential evaluation to make disability determinations, the steps are:

Step One: Is the claimant engaging in SGA?

A person who is earning SGA does not qualify for benefits. This determination is generally made at the Social Security Field Office, but examiners are also responsible for determining SGA and how to report work activity.

Step Two: Does the claimant have a severe, medically determinable impairment?

For an impairment to be considered severe it must be supported by signs, symptoms and laboratory findings, must be diagnosed by an acceptable medical source (M.D., D.O., PhD, etc.) and must significantly impair the claimant's ability to perform activities of daily living. Disability examiners are trained in anatomy, physiology and the ability to recognize the criteria to support a diagnosis.

Step Three: Does the impairment meet or equal a listing?

The SSA Blue Book outlines the criteria for finding a claimant disabled for many of the most commonly disabling impairments as well as the documentation necessary to support those impairments. If the criteria are met for the claimant's impairment, they can be found to be an allowance at this step.

If the claimant does not meet a listing, the examiner or medical consultant will determine the claimant's Residual Functional Capacity (mental or physical). This assessment is used to determine the claimant's ability to perform work related activities and is unique to each claimant.

Step Four: Can the claimant perform past relevant work?

For work to be considered "relevant" the claimant must have earned SGA performing that work and performed it long enough to become proficient at the occupation. The disability examiner reviews the claimant's work history and compares the claimant's past relevant work, using the Dictionary of Occupational Titles as a guide as well as the claimant's own description of the work performed, with the RFC to determine if the claimant is able to return to any past relevant work.

Step Five: Can the claimant perform other work?

If the claimant is unable to perform past relevant work, the examiner determines if the claimant is able to perform other work using SSA's vocational guidelines, which take into account the claimant's age, education, RFC and work history. If the claimant is found to be unable to adjust to other work, the claimant can be found eligible for benefits at this step.

Disability Examiner Responsibilities

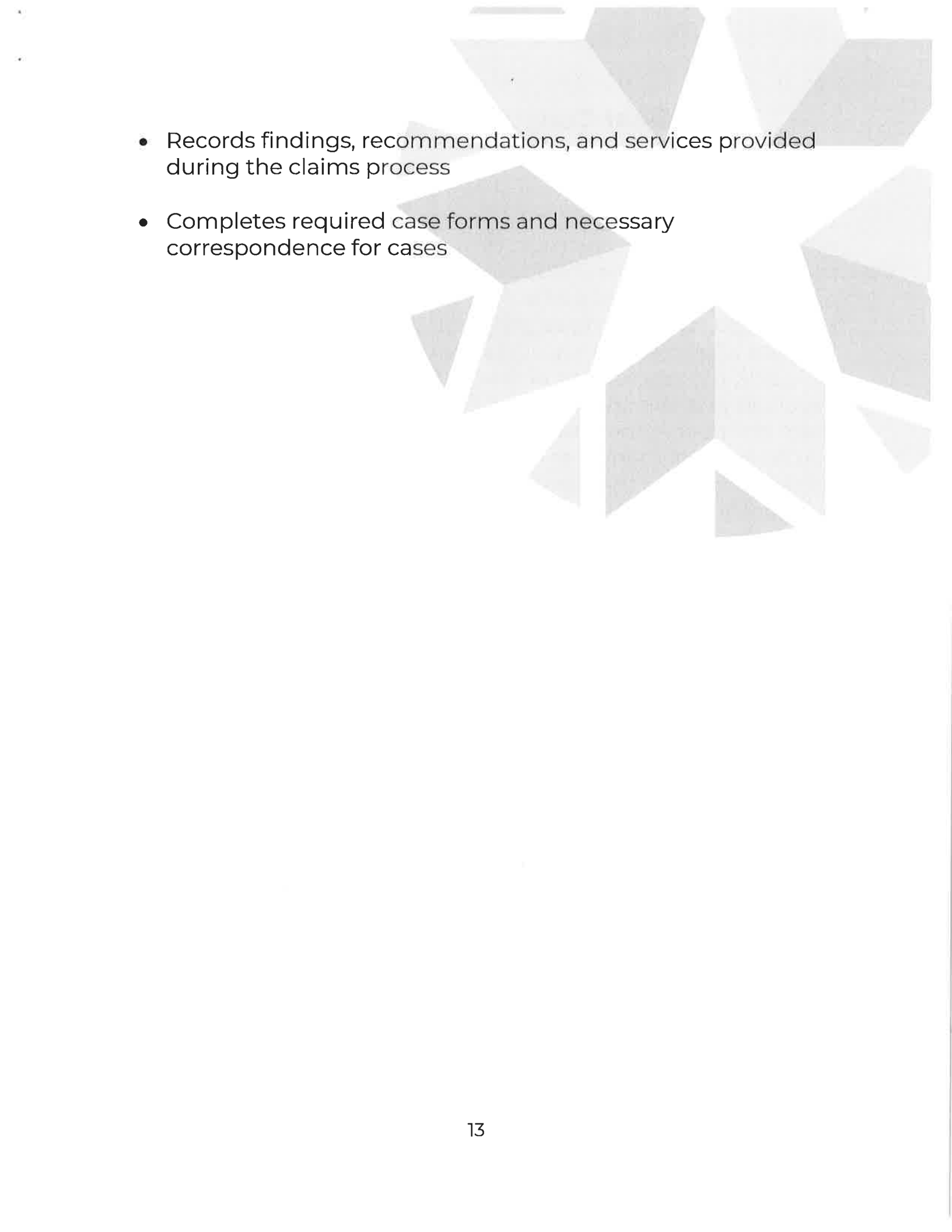
The main responsibility of the disability examiner (DE) is to make the preliminary determination of the claimant's eligibility for disability benefits for Title II and the Title XVI programs.

The DE must evaluate both medical and non-medical criteria to determine eligibility.

The rules of eligibility are complex and difficult to administer, the DE is directly accountable for a significant impact on the economy of Oklahoma.

Examples of tasks performed by the DE include the following:

- Examines applications and case records of claimants for completeness of factual information to document eligibility
- Requests and obtains medical records, work information and functional information for each claim
- Interviews claimants, employers, agency officials, etc., to obtain information to assess non-medical evidence for the determination of claims
- Reviews medical evidence from claimants, physicians, and hospitals to ensure conformance with established SSA regulations
- Consults with DDS medical consultants to review medical evidence and determine eligibility
- Approves or disapproves claims in accordance with guidelines established by SSA

- 
- Records findings, recommendations, and services provided during the claims process
 - Completes required case forms and necessary correspondence for cases

Medical Consultant Responsibilities

Medical consultants work in conjunction with Disability Examiners to determine medical eligibility for benefits. To qualify as a medical consultant, one must be an “acceptable medical source” by SSA definition. This includes licensed physicians, licensed optometrists, licensed podiatrists, qualified licensed psychologists or qualified speech-language pathologists. Medical consultants perform a full professional evaluation of the disability case, including the assessment of residual functional capacity. Psychologists and speech pathologists will require a physician team member in the disability determination only when there is a combination of mental, or speech, impairments with physical impairments, and the mental or speech impairment alone does not qualify the individual for disability. The medical consultant’s role in the disability determination process includes, but is not limited to, the following.

- Assist examiners, as necessary, in determining whether proposed development seems likely to provide sufficient detail about the applicant’s impairment to complete the case to the extent necessary for a disability determination
- Judge collectively with the examiner whether re-contact with the applicant’s physician is indicated, whether contact should be made with other agencies, hospitals, institutions, etc.; and whether a consultative examination (CE) should be purchased, including specialty examinations or specific tests deemed necessary
- If necessary, make physician-to-physician contacts to obtain or clarify medical evidence, as needed
- In the process of case reviews the medical consultant is equally responsible with the examiner for insuring that:
 - work capacity is clearly indicated

- the case is fully documented
 - all significant facts are reflected in the determination
 - conflicting evidence is reconciled
 - the conclusion reached is sound and rational
 - the weight given to the evidence is explained
 - the reasoning and thought process followed in evaluating the evidence are reflected
 - the effects of the impairment(s), or symptoms related to the impairment or treatment, on the claimant's work capacity is clearly indicated.
- Eliminate deficiencies in the application of disability evaluation standards, guides, and procedures suggested, by returning cases to examiners for recommended actions following case review
 - Assist in medical training of adjudicative personnel to ensure uniform understanding of instructions containing medical content

The Determination

- The allowance and denial decisions processed by DDS Disability Examiners (DE) represent the determinations of the Commissioner of Social Security.
- The DE decides not only whether the facts support a finding of disability, but also must determine when the medical impairment first became disabling, and the medical onset of the claimant's disability considering work activity, prior determinations and other non-medical eligibility requirements that may present a legal barrier to finding a claimant to be disabled.
- The DE must explain conclusions in a notice mailed to the claimant and legal representative.
- Cases are subject to review both within the DDS and by the Federal Regional Office. All judgments made in reaching a decision are subject to considerable scrutiny. The DDS is held accountable for the accuracy of its decisions—that is, how well those judgments stand up to review.
- Decisions to award disability benefits are subject to special reviews to ensure that benefit dollars go only to people who truly meet the disability standards.
- All decisions are subject to appeal and must be legally supportable.



Oklahoma Specifics

Benefit Payments

The Social Security program provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when earnings stop because the worker becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's disability benefit is based on the worker's prior level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. The benefit amount for the auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. This is the Title II program.

- In Oklahoma, disabled workers receive average monthly Social Security payments of \$1,475.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. This is the Title XVI program.

- As of January 2025, the maximum monthly benefit for SSI is \$967 for an individual and \$1,450 for a couple.

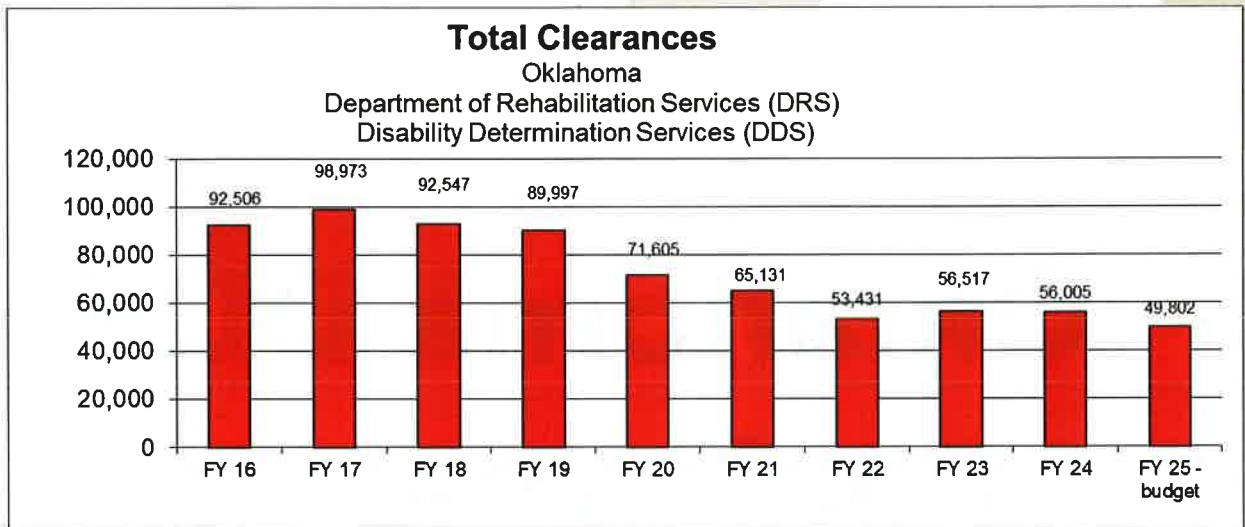
These disability programs make a dramatically positive difference to the citizens of the State of Oklahoma.



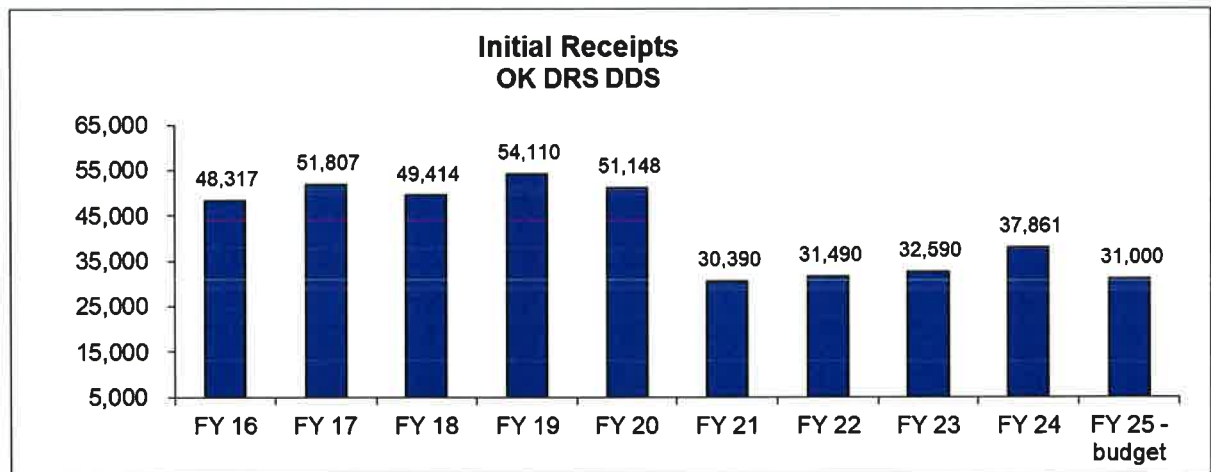
Oklahoma DDS Performance

Case Production

Total case clearances for Oklahoma decreased from FFY 2019-2022 due to the introduction of National Case Processing System.

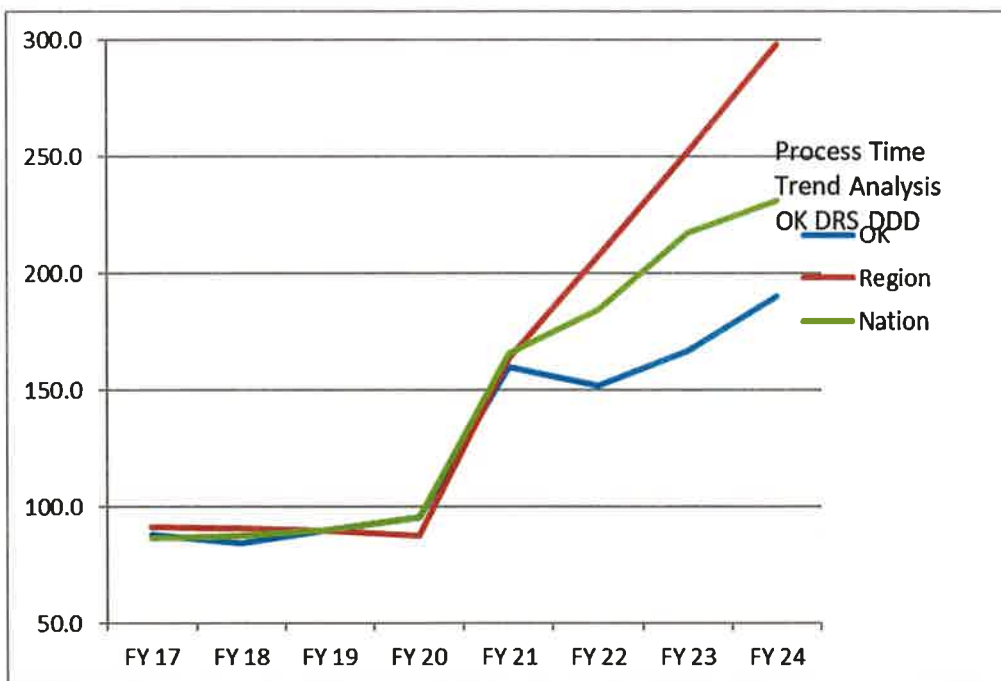
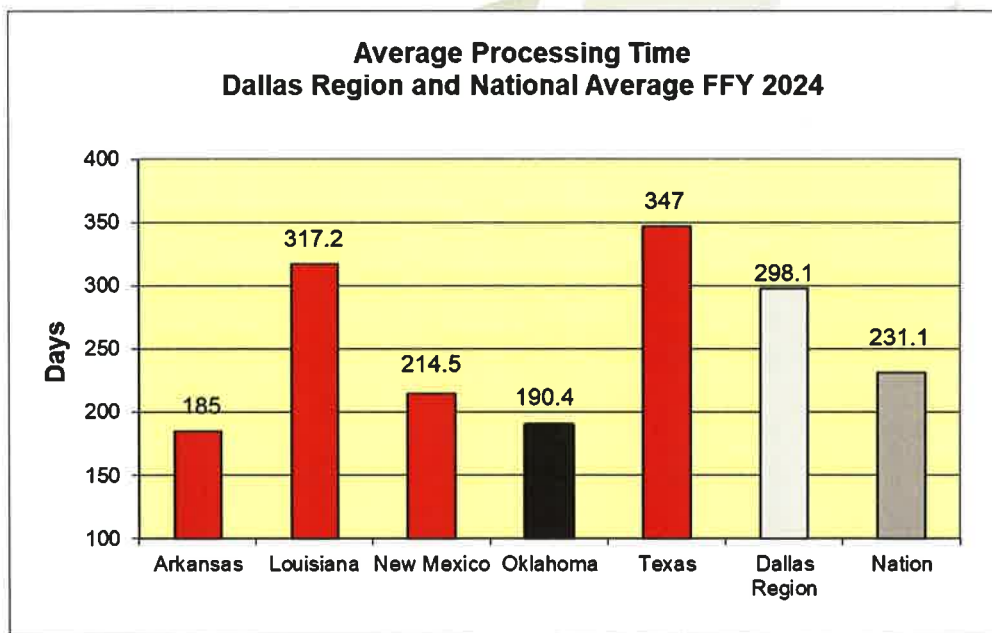


Nationally, both initial claims and CDR's will continue to be processed.



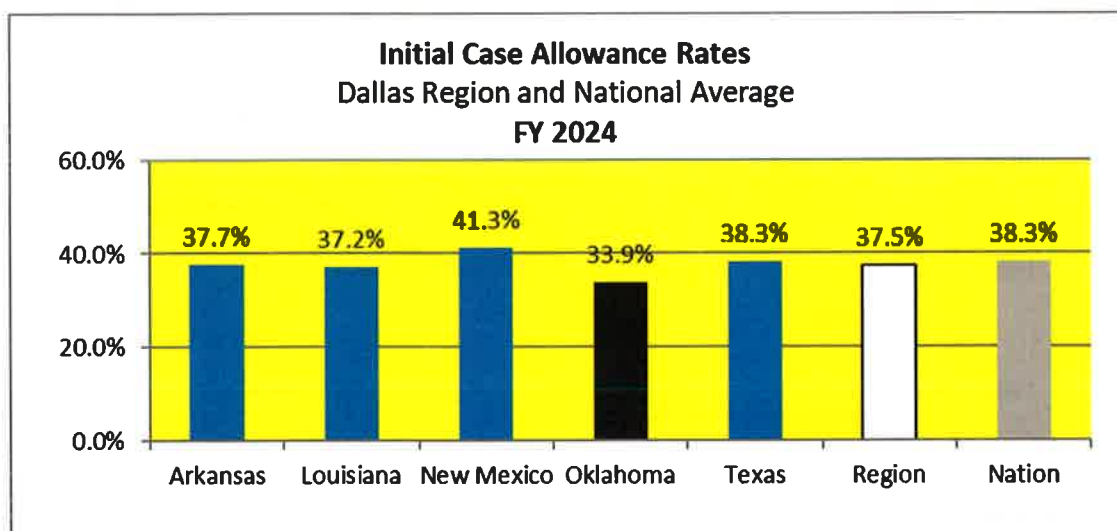
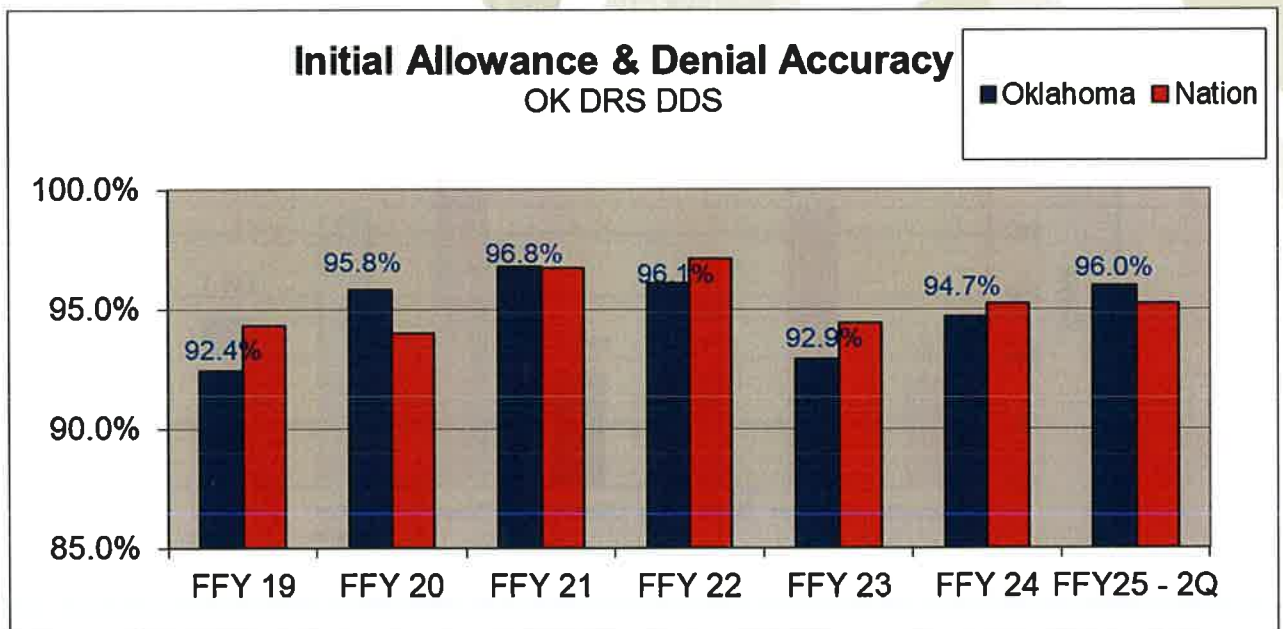
Processing Time

The average processing time for decisions in Oklahoma for FFY 2024 was 190.4 days, below the National Average.



Accuracy of Adjudication

Accuracy is based on ongoing statistical samples of cases reviewed by quality assurance components of the Social Security Administration throughout the nation.



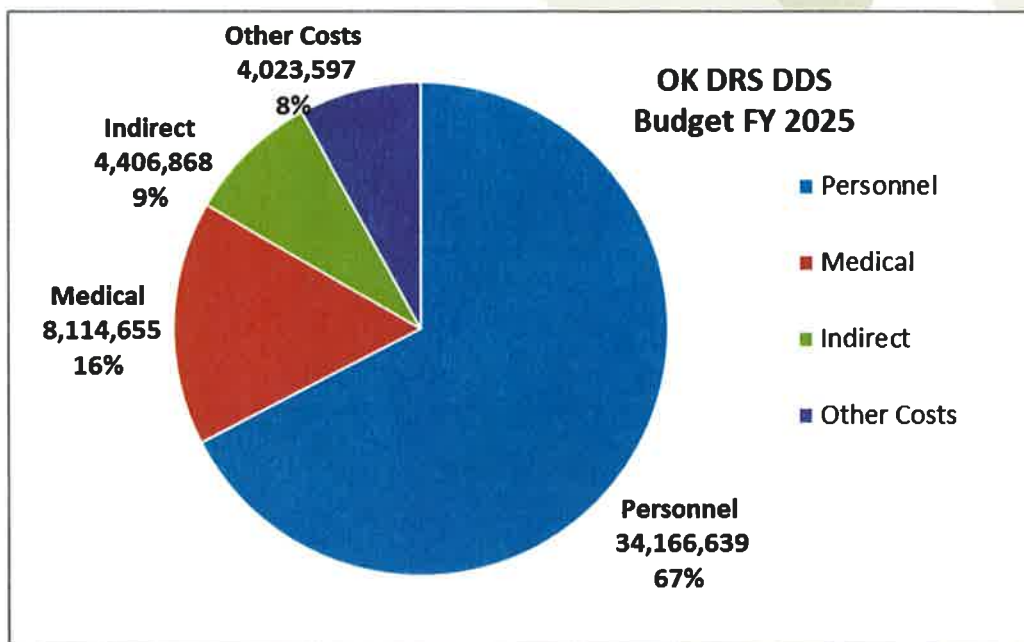


Budget



Total Budget

- Expenditures for the Oklahoma DDS in FFY 2025 are projected to be \$50.7 million.
- 67% of those costs were directly related to personnel.
- Indirect costs are projected at \$4.4 million. These are payments to the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, our parent agency.

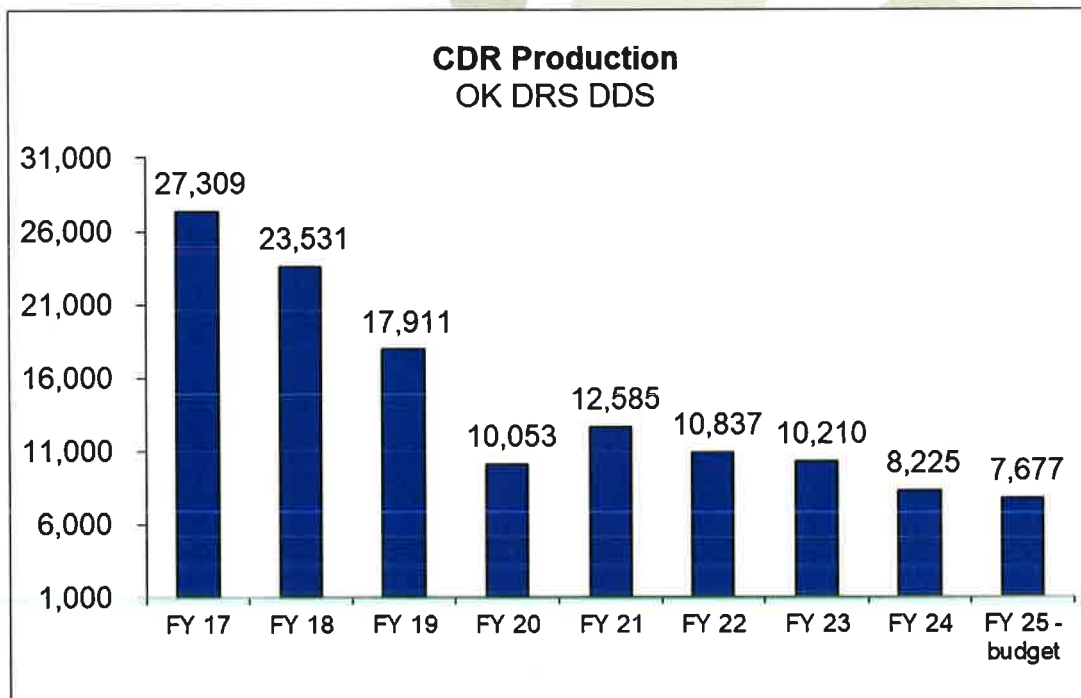


Continuing Disability Review Workload Processing

Individuals who receive SSA and/or SSI disability benefits must have their cases re-evaluated periodically to determine if they continue to meet the criteria to be considered disabled within the meaning

of the law. This re-evaluation is referred to as a Continuing Disability Review (CDR).

The Oklahoma DDS processed 8,225 CDR's in FY 2024. For FY 2025, the DDS expects to process 7,677 CDR claims.





OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services



Commissioners

Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery, and Kelsey Lee

Regular Meeting
and Video Conferencing

Disability Determination Services
9801 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

May 14, 2025

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma
Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting
May 14, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.**

Disability Determination Services
9801 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City 73131-2433

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

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility.

Due to technical difficulties there will be no virtual option for this meeting.

Public Comment: To speak in person, 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. 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

6. Legislative Report

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Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison

- a) Status of legislative bills including commission expansion.
- b) Possible discussion

7. Chief Financial Officer's Report

Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer

- a) Financial Status Report
- b) FY 2027 - FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request
- c) Possible discussion

Pg. 18

Pg. 26

8. FY 26 Budget Update

Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer

- a) Discussion and possible action

9. Human Resources Report

Tom Patt, HR Director

- a) Personnel Activity report
- b) Introduction of new staff
- c) Possible discussion

Pg. 31

10. Vocational Rehabilitation Services Report

Mark Kinnison, Division Administrator

- a) Priority Group Updates and Portal Referrals
- b) Report includes program, hiring, and training updates.
- c) Possible discussion

Pg. 37

11. Disability Determination Services Overview

Keith Tiller, Division Administrator

- a) Possible discussion

Handout

12. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for Deaf

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

- a) Donation Reports for March and April 2025
- b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

Pg. 40

13. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for the Blind

Brent Pearce, Superintendent

a) Donation Report for April 2025

Pg. 43

b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

14. Review of the Minutes of the March 12, 2025, Commission Meeting. Pg. 45

Theresa Flannery, Chair

a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.

15. Review of the Minutes of the April 16, 2025, Commission Meeting. Pg. 51

Theresa Flannery, Chair

b) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.

16. 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.

17. 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.

There will be a brief tour of the Disability Determination Services offices immediately following the Commission meeting.

Next Regular Commission meeting: Wednesday, June 11th at 10:30 A



Executive Director's Report

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
May 14, 2025

Remembrance

Glenn Hatter, Jr., passed away April 13. Glenn worked for the State of Oklahoma and DRS most of his career focusing on assisting those with disabilities in finding resources and job opportunities. He completed a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Human Resources Counseling from East Central University in Ada. He also served in the Army National Guard.

Executive

April

17 – Fruendt's Front TownHall Meeting.

24 – VR TAC Meeting.

25 – Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development Meeting; Think College Network Meeting.

26 – OSD and Career Tech Collaboration Meeting.

May

6-8 – Cultivate Training.

12 – OKIPSE Meeting.

13 – Fruendt Topics Meeting.

14 – Commission for Rehabilitation Services Meeting.

Process Improvement (PI) – Lyuda Polyun

AWARE

- Upgraded AWARE to version 2024.2.2.1
- Completing RSA-911 error corrections in preparation for the quarterly report due May 15th.
- Imported February 2025 OU Pre-Employment Transition Services into AWARE, and preparing to import March 2025 services.
- Began the BEP project with Alliance Enterprises, in the early stages of working to implement this new system for BEP staff to utilize.

Case Review

- Closed case audit performed statewide.
- Meeting held with Transition Coordinator and OU Vendor regarding Pre-ETS protocol.
- Contacted Missouri VR re Pre-ETS potentially eligible case review process.

Program Standards, Statistical Research, Data Dashboards

- The SDE IEP and the SWS/WAT dashboards are complete and have been shared with their end users. At the request of SDE Special Education Services, the IEP dashboard was demonstrated during the ORC Transition committee meeting.
- Continue to meet with the SharePoint/Power App team on an official form for future data requests. The app and flows are currently in testing.
- Initiated the OLBPH survey and data collection in process.
- Continue to work on the Needs Assessment and are working with the Power BI team on additional reports needed on Authorizations and CRPs.

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.
- Created new reports in Power BI for Benefits Planning and Aware Team.

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



Legislative Report

5/14/25 – DRS Commission Legislative Report

by Jennifer Hardin

**Report Submission Date: 05-02-2025*

- **04/24/25** - Committee Deadline for Bills in Opposite Chamber.
- **05/08/25** – Deadline for Bills to be heard in Opposite Chamber.
- **05/30/25 – Sine Die Deadline: The 60th Legislature must adjourn no later than 5:00 p.m.**

'25 DRS Request Bills

[SB 770](#)

[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:

3/26/25 - Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 44/N: 1)
3/27/25 – Received in the House
4/09/25 - House Public Health Comm. – Do Pass
4/16/25 – House Oversight: HHS committee - Do Pass
5/06/25 - Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 79/N: 4)

[HB 2387](#)

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

Increases the number of members on the Rehabilitation Services Commission.

Bill History:

3/10/25 - Passed in House (Vote: Y: 86/N: 3)
3/11/25 - Received in the Senate
4/01/25 - Referred to Senate Committee Senate Health & Human Services
4/25/25 – BILL DORMANT: Not heard by 4/24 Senate Committee deadline.

➤ 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

05-02-2025 - 12:14:30

'25 DRS Request Bills

[SB 770](#) [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: 05-06-25 H Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 79/N: 4)

'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 Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended 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: 04-15-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Public Safety

[HB 1539](#) [Lepak, Mark\(R\)](#) [Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#) Provides for income tax rate reductions based on estimated state revenue calculations.

Bill History: 04-10-25 S Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 36/N: 9)

[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 Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[HB 1833](#) [Hefner, Eilyn\(D\)](#) [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: 04-22-25 S Withdrawn from committee Senate Appropriations

HB 2728	Kendrix, Gerrid(R) Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	Expands the duties of LOFT to include impact analysis of proposed permanent agency rules and adjusts the process for legislative review of such rules; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 05-01-25 S Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 37/N: 7)
HB 2729	Kendrix, Gerrid(R) Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	Requires courts to interpret the meaning of statute de novo in a way which favors limiting agency power and prohibits administrative agencies from awarding civil penalties that would also be subject to common law. Bill History: 05-01-25 S Removed from the Floor Agenda
SB 364	Rader, Dave(R) Moore, Anthony(R)	Prohibits school personnel from using corporal punishment on any student with a disability. Bill History: 05-01-25 G Sent to the Governor
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: 04-15-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass 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: 04-21-25 H Set on the House Floor Agenda
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: 04-24-25 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

Education Bills

HB 1075	Hildebrant, Derrick (F)(R) Seifried, Ally(R)	Expands certain restrictions, notice and oversight required for dismissal or refusal of reemployment for teachers and school administrators; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-22-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted 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: 04-15-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended 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: 04-23-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Appropriations
HB 1096	Hasenbeck, Toni(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Modifies various provisions related to student testing to include CLT as an alternative exam alongside the ACT and SAT; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-22-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted 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: 05-01-25 S Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 46/N: 0)
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: 04-16-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted Senate Appropriations
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: 04-23-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted 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: 05-01-25 G Sent to the Governor		
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: 04-15-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass 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: 04-23-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Appropriations		
SB 6	Seifried, Ally(R) Banning, Chris(R)	Adjusts school board elections dates and modifies filing periods to account for the adjustment.
Bill History: 05-05-25 H Set on the House Floor Agenda		
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: 04-29-25 H Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 70/N: 23)		
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.
Bill History: 04-30-25 G Sent to the Governor		
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: 04-29-25 H Emergency failed (Vote: Y: 62/N: 19)		
SB 245	Deevers, Dusty(R) Hasenbeck, Toni(R)	Adjust various provisions related to advanced teachers and stipend calculations, directing the Education Dept. to establish and manage a High Dosage Tutoring Program to produce and assess tutors to improve student performance; EMERGENCY.
Bill History: 04-29-25 H Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 75/N: 12)		

SB 758	Thompson, Kristen(R) Moore, Anthony(R)	Allows schools to use a limited number of virtual days towards required classroom instruction time. Bill History: 04-30-25 G Sent to the Governor
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: 04-29-25 H Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 83/N: 0)
SB 841	Pugh, Adam(R) Hasenbeck, Toni(R)	Requires certified teaching personnel in public schools to be trained in certain reading instruction programs and take a related assessment; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-29-25 H Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 81/N: 6)
General Government Bills		
HB 2108	Osburn, Mike(R) Gillespie, Christi (F)(R)	Adjusts various references in the Employee Insurance and Benefits Act and requires the Health Care Authority to work in conjunction with OMES to determine certain provisions. Bill History: 04-22-25 S Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 42/N: 0)
HB 2729	Kendrix, Gerrid(R) Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	Requires courts to interpret the meaning of statute de novo in a way which favors limiting agency power and prohibits administrative agencies from awarding civil penalties that would also be subject to common law. Bill History: 05-01-25 S Removed from the Floor Agenda
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: 05-01-25 G Sent to the Governor
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: 05-01-25 S Senate rejected House amendments

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: 04-17-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended 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: 04-15-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass 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: 04-22-25 S Voted from committee - Do Pass 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: 05-01-25 G Sent to the Governor
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: 04-17-25 H Voted from committee - Do Pass 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: 04-17-25 H Voted from committee - Do Pass House Oversight: Jud & Pub Safe

Workforce Dev. Bills

[SB 224](#)

[Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#)
[Caldwell, Chad\(R\)](#)

Creates the Education and Workforce Statewide Longitudinal Data System to provide a secure means of analyzing statewide data related to education workforce issues.

Bill History: 05-01-25 H Emergency failed (Vote: Y: 51/N: 36)

[SB 662](#)

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

Creates the Workforce Commission Revolving fund, directing the Commission to develop and implement certain programs to address workforce development needs.

Bill History: 04-30-25 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

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Chief Financial Officer's Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 2025

Agency Summary						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	98,019,646.00	49.1%	63,295,502.24	64.6%	33,289,779.46	98.5%
Travel	1,393,060.00	0.7%	1,036,582.20	74.4%	20,262.59	75.9%
General Operating	29,322,944.00	14.7%	13,824,877.39	47.1%	12,989,499.72	91.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,970,859.00	1.0%	431,020.39	21.9%	808,530.13	62.9%
Client / General Assistance	57,506,079.00	28.8%	25,423,834.58	44.2%	26,894,038.33	91.0%
Indirect Cost	11,335,951.00	5.7%	7,831,587.30	69.1%	3,504,363.70	100.0%
Total	199,548,539.00	100.0%	111,843,404.10	56.0%	77,506,473.93	94.9%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 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%	19,682,847.58	62.8%	11,344,969.35	99.0%
Travel	985,400.00	1.0%	787,652.00	79.9%	165.00	79.9%
General Operating	11,602,362.00	11.8%	6,538,570.44	56.4%	4,468,301.82	94.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	882,037.00	0.9%	215,569.37	24.4%	332,761.54	62.2%
Client / General Assistance	48,471,079.00	49.5%	20,456,085.98	42.2%	22,967,134.85	89.6%
Indirect Cost	4,669,771.00	4.8%	3,258,350.85	69.8%	1,411,420.15	100.0%
Total	97,951,726.00	100.0%	50,939,076.22	52.0%	40,524,752.71	93.4%
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	28,555,136.00	31.1%	17,791,924.41	62.3%	10,569,970.58	99.3%
Travel	959,400.00	1.0%	763,117.29	79.5%	165.00	79.6%
General Operating	9,640,549.00	10.5%	5,208,945.68	54.0%	3,840,184.98	93.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	613,131.00	0.7%	148,360.63	24.2%	332,506.54	78.4%
Client / General Assistance	47,709,667.00	52.0%	20,110,273.54	42.2%	22,645,014.47	89.6%
Indirect Cost	4,358,379.00	4.7%	3,037,051.95	69.7%	1,321,327.05	100.0%
Total	91,836,262.00	100.0%	47,059,673.50	51.2%	38,709,168.62	93.4%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 2025

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,516,825.00	73.0%	5,254,453.84	69.9%	2,133,792.87	98.3%
Travel	68,200.00	0.7%	35,008.61	51.3%	300.00	51.8%
General Operating	1,535,548.00	14.9%	791,602.22	51.6%	789,187.68	102.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	357,861.00	3.5%	70,373.36	19.7%	165,446.79	65.9%
Client / General Assistance	53,000.00	0.5%	14,794.77	27.9%	0.00	27.9%
Indirect Cost	765,664.00	7.4%	566,758.36	74.0%	198,905.64	100.0%
Total	10,297,098.00	100.0%	6,732,991.16	65.4%	3,287,632.98	97.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 2025

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,511,523.00	45.7%	5,702,134.93	59.9%	3,706,378.98	98.9%
Travel	170,700.00	0.8%	138,049.93	80.9%	334.09	81.1%
General Operating	9,075,525.00	43.6%	2,932,961.72	32.3%	4,772,437.58	84.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	608,201.00	2.9%	119,904.66	19.7%	276,369.30	65.2%
Client / General Assistance	431,000.00	2.1%	123,037.81	28.5%	205,819.50	76.3%
Indirect Cost	995,725.00	4.8%	659,171.56	66.2%	336,553.44	100.0%
Total	20,792,674.00	100.0%	9,675,260.61	46.5%	9,297,892.89	91.2%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 2025

All Programs Disability Determination Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	40,421,259.00	69.5%	26,825,749.55	66.4%	12,805,489.76	98.0%
Travel	69,500.00	0.1%	20,203.65	29.1%	19,463.50	57.1%
General Operating	4,196,880.00	7.2%	2,118,763.81	50.5%	2,005,589.92	98.3%
Office Furniture & Equipment	43,059.00	0.1%	6,199.85	14.4%	33,952.50	93.2%
Client / General Assistance	8,551,000.00	14.7%	4,829,916.02	56.5%	3,721,083.98	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,898,302.00	8.4%	3,342,869.22	68.2%	1,555,432.78	100.0%
Total	58,180,000.00	100.0%	37,143,702.10	63.8%	20,141,012.44	98.5%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 2025

All Programs DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,228,962.00	74.9%	5,830,316.34	63.2%	3,299,148.50	98.9%
Travel	99,260.00	0.8%	55,668.01	56.1%	0.00	56.1%
General Operating	2,912,629.00	23.6%	1,442,979.20	49.5%	953,982.72	82.3%
Office Furniture & Equipment	79,701.00	0.6%	18,973.15	23.8%	0.00	23.8%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	6,489.00	0.1%	4,437.31	68.4%	2,051.69	100.0%
Total	12,327,041.00	100.0%	7,352,374.01	59.6%	4,255,182.91	94.2%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of March 31, 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



Capital Outlay Request

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISSUE:

Review of the FY 2027 – FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request

BACKGROUND:

The DRS Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the FY 2027 – FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request and justifications as submitted by DRS Divisions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests the Commission review, assign Agency priorities, and make recommendations for the FY 2027 – FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request.

BUDGET IMPACT:**FY 2027 – FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request**

Division/Program	Number of Projects	Total Cost
OSB	6	17,255,000
OSD	2	5,000,000
TOTAL	8	\$22,255,000

**Department of Rehabilitation Services
FY 2027 - FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request**

Priority	Project #	Project Name	Amount
1	805-0068	OSB - New Cafeteria	6,800,500
2	805-0036	OSB - New Media & Technology Center	4,415,250
3	805-0069	OSB - Auditorium Remodel	913,500
4	805-0030	OSB - B-4 Building Remodel	1,319,500
5	805-0026	OSB - New Maintenance and Auto/Carpentry Shop	2,892,750
6	805-0072	OSB - Apartment Remodel	913,500
New	New	OSD - Griffing Hall Remodel	3,000,000
New	New	OSD - White Hall Remodel & HVAC Replacement	2,000,000
TOTAL REQUEST			\$22,255,000

Division/Program	Amount
OSB (6 Projects)	\$17,255,000
OSD (2 Projects)	\$5,000,000
Total Request (8 Projects)	\$22,255,000

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

FY 2027 - FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request

805-0068 OSB - New Cafeteria

Agency Priority 1 Amount \$6,800,500

This request is for the construction of a new school cafeteria. Underneath the concrete of the current cafeteria lies the sewer and plumbing lines, which are original to the 1904 building. The floor drains do not drain properly and Maintenance has had to piece-mill sections of the pipe. Water lines and grease traps are old and need to be replaced, the ceilings are low and the lighting is inadequate. There are also load-bearing columns throughout the dining room making it difficult for visually impaired children to navigate freely. A new cafeteria would also provide additional space for trainings and special events. The old dining room could even be remodeled to accommodate more classrooms.

805-0036 OSB - New Media and Technology Center

Agency Priority 2 Amount \$4,415,250

This request is for a new Media Technology Center that would also be large enough to house all of OSB's library materials. The new Center will include technology labs that are designed for low vision and braille students, as well as different types of electronic table tops and hand-held magnifiers. The computers will be adapted for visually impaired and blind students and study cubicles will enable students to complete assignments with support from trained technology and library staff members. In addition, braille embossers will be available in a soundproof room accessible from the lab. The OSB library has outgrown its present space. While most libraries have materials in one or two mediums; OSB provides books and materials in several mediums including regular print, large print, Braille and tape. A braille equivalent for one regular dictionary is twenty-four volumes in large print and thirty-two volumes in braille. Because OSB currently houses the largest braille library in the State of Oklahoma, the weight of the holdings on the top floor of the current library could present future problems. Additionally, due to the proximity of the library to the dormitory, it is necessary to block access to the library after school hours for security reasons. The new library will be located in an area that allows students to have full access to all media and resources after school hours. Students will also be able to exit in a safe and timely manner. Furthermore, the new library would include an area designated for the use of raised relief maps. OSB owns several relief maps that range in size from 3 ft x 3 ft to 5 ft x 4 ft. These maps are great learning tools for OSB students, however, there is currently no place to display the maps.

805-0069 OSB - Auditorium Remodel

Agency Priority 3 Amount \$913,500

This request is to renovate the auditorium to upgrade flooring, lighting, sound system and seating capacity. Currently, at graduation and other special events, the auditorium fills to capacity with families, friends and dignitaries and many of them must stand in the aisles and doorways due to the limited seating capacity. Also, the seats can no longer be anchored into the plywood subfloor due to dry-rot. Therefore, the subfloor must be replaced before new seating and carpet can be installed. The carpet, painting and seating were replaced approximately thirty-six years ago and the sound system is around twenty years old. The lighting is inadequate and the HVAC system needs to be upgraded from a 2-pipe to a 4-pipe system. There are 265 seats in 3,150 square feet, including the balcony area.

805-0030 OSB - B-4 Building Remodel**Agency Priority 4 Amount \$1,319,500**

This project is to renovate the B-4 building into independent living spaces for transitional OSB students and to provide a main teaching/meeting area. The project would include new plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems, as well as plaster repairs, painting and new flooring. The building currently has a new roof, windows and tuckpointing. Presently, the second floor of the B-4 dormitory can only be used for storage. The main floor was previously renovated using donated funds.

805-0026 OSB - New Maintenance and Auto/Carpentry Shop**Agency Priority 5 Amount \$2,892,750**

The current old building houses the auto shop and the carpentry shop. It is too small to house both. Only one vehicle at a time can be squeezed into the allotted space. Currently our mechanic must work outside and lie on the ground (in all weather) when working on our school buses and other vehicles. The old building is also located in a high student traffic walking area. The new metal building will be approximately 75' x 100' with a carport attached to the front of the building along the entire 100' length, creating a 20' x 100' carport.

805-0072 OSB - Apartment Remodel**Agency Priority 6 Amount \$913,500**

This project is to renovate the old apartments built in 1949, located on the second floor above the maintenance building, into independent living units for OSB transition graduates. This plan will connect this building to the B-4 dorm with a connecting corridor/walkway. These apartments will be accessed by an elevator. The current building is not ADA accessible. New plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems need to be installed, as well as plaster repaired, painting, and new flooring. The building already has a new roof. Presently the apartments can only be used for storage.

OSD-New - Griffing Hall Remodel**Agency Priority NEW Amount \$3,000,000**

This project is to remodel the second and third floors of the Griffing Hall Dormitory, as well as the first floor bathrooms in the cafeteria. This will include creating additional walls on each floor, painting and remodeling the restrooms. It will also involve replacing the water lines, variable air volume (VAV- a sophisticated type heating ventilation and air conditioning system that adjust the amount of air delivered to different zones within a building space based on specific needs), and boiler. The restrooms on the first floor in the cafeteria will also be remodeled.

OSD-New - White Hall Remodel and HVAC Replacement**Agency Priority NEW Amount \$2,000,000**

This project is to remodel all of the restrooms in White Hall and replace five direct expansion units (on the roof and in two classrooms), as well as replace two air handling units in classrooms and twenty heating valves.

TOTAL REQUEST \$22,255,000



Human Resources Report

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF APRIL 30, 2025

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 11 vacant positions filled / 52 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	Deekshita Jadav	04/14/2025
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	Mathew Samuel	04/01/2025
MSD	Human Resources Management Spec / 0893	12/02/2022	MSD	04/25/2025	Continuous	25-087	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / P107184	NEW PIN	MSD	03/14/2025	Continuous	25-075	LaKesha Denton	04/14/2025
OSB	Outreach Coordinator / 0673	07/31/2025	OSB	04/22/2025	Continuous	25-086	Currently Open	
OSB	Teacher / 0425	07/31/2025	OSB	04/22/2025	Continuous	25-083	Currently Open	
OSB	LPN / 0017	02/26/2025	OSB	03/03/2025	Continuous	25-073	Whitney Henderson	04/01/2025
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	Emily Tanner	04/01/2025
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0378	11/30/2024	OSB	01/17/2024	Continuous	24-057	Amber Alexander	04/01/2025
OSB	School Psychologist, 2045 / 0463	01/26/2025	OSB	10/26/2023	Continuous	23-095	Currently Open	
OSD	Administrative Assistant / 0139	07/31/2023	OSD	04/25/2025	Continuous	25-088	Currently Open	
OSD	Fire Prevention & Security Officer / 0733	08/01/2025	OSD	04/07/2025	Continuous	25-081	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Specialist / 0261	03/23/2025	OSD	02/24/2025	Continuous	25-071	Currently Open	
OSD	Counselor / 1028	08/01/2024	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		08/01/2010	OSD					

OSD	Dir of Family and Early Childhood Services / 1494	05/10/2024	OSD	05/08/2024	Continuous	24-084	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher / 0635	07/31/2024	OSD – Chickasha	04/15/2024	Continuous	24-083	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0542	01/09/2024	OSD	01/17/2024	Continuous	24-058	Red Stone	04/01/2025
OSD	Sign Language Specialist, 2308 / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Dorm) / 0642, 0746, 0824, 0778	03/10/2024 09/08/2024 10/01/2024 12/31/2024	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Kizzie Crouch	04/01/2025
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0890	08/01/2021	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0646	08/01/2022	VR41 – Ponca City	04/25/2025	Continuous	25-090	Currently Open	
VR	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0263	02/01/2025	VR36 – OKC	04/22/2025	Continuous	25-089	Currently Open	
VR	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0085	05/01/2024	VR36 – OKC	04/18/2025	Continuous	25-085	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0756	03/27/2025	VR75 – Lawton	04/18/2025	Continuous	25-084	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0220	05/31/2025	VR80 – Tulsa	04/15/2025	Continuous	25-082	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0472	04/15/2025	VR15 – MWC	04/01/2025	Continuous	25-079	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0279	11/05/2024	VR47 – OKC	04/7/2025	04/11/2025	25-080	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0095	03/01/2025	VR47 – OKC	03/26/2025	Continuous	25-076	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1189	04/15/2025	VR44 – 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	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0644	02/20/2025	VR42 – Poteau	02/19/2025	Continuous	25-069	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0047	01/31/2025	VR07 – Durant	01/31/2025	Continuous	25-066	Jesse Saxon	04/01/2025
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0659	11/30/2024	VR38 – Okmulgee	01/27/2025	Continuous	25-065	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0437	02/28/2025	VR81 – Chickasha	01/28/2025	Continuous	25-063	Melissa Farmer	04/15/2025
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0124	01/01/2025	VR44 – Stillwater	01/14/2025	Continuous	25-061	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Manager / 1072	12/01/2024	VR – TBD	12/13/2024	Continuous	25-057	Currently Open	

VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0087	12/20/2024	VR45 – Tulsa	12/12/2024	Continuous	25-058	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0169	10/01/2024	VR45 – Tulsa	11/19/2024	Continuous	25-052	Currently Open
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0440	10/01/2024	VR38 – Okmulgee	10/29/2024	Continuous	25-049	Shana Wray 04/01/2025
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 = 4
<i>As of April 30, 2025</i>

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Resignation = 2

1 = 1 year 5 months

1 = 3 years 11 months

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Resignation = 1

1 = 7 months

Trial Period Discharge = 1

1 = 3 years, 9 months

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2025

FTE as of April 30, 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	76.00	3.00	0.00	79.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	238.0	203.00	24.00	(1.00)	226.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	115.0	101.00	3.00	(2.00)	102.00
VR/SBVI-DP	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	100.5	99.00	4.00	0.00	103.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	134.0	112.00	18.00	(1.00)	129.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	676.80	595.00	52.00	(4.00)	643.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	342.40	317.00	0.00	(320.00)	317.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	1019.20	912.00	52.00	(324.00)	960.00

FY 25 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
 Mark Beutler, Director of Communications
 Kathleen Arrieta, Executive Assistant
 Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III



Vocational Rehabilitation Services Report

Commission for Rehabilitation Services

Report by Mark Kinnison, VR Division Administrator
May 2025

- As of April 30, 2025, the VR program has completed 2,539 applications, 1,817 plans of employment, and 501 successful outcomes.
- Wages on successful outcomes average \$17.31 per hour. Our top two disability groups are Cognitive Impairment and Psychosocial Impairment.
- Timely eligibility and plan development are being completed within time frames 98% of the time.
- The VR program has 8 counselor vacancies currently.
- We are looking to add to our Business Services Team as well as our Psychological Clinician and Vocational Evaluator Team.
- Work is ongoing with ORC and Tribal VR Programs to develop training for VR/SBVI staff starting in July.
- VR/SBVI is partnering with the Institute for Community Inclusion, out of UMASS Boston, and Developmental Disability Services to conduct various training courses around the area of dual customer service. These will start in May and end in August.
- VR/SBVI, in partnership with the ORC and Harrison Consulting, will be holding training sessions in June regarding self-employment.
- We are still looking at several office moves that Dusty Price is assisting us with.
- VR conducted a Program Manager/Coordinator meeting in March. Several topics were discussed. As a follow-up, a VR update for all staff was held on April 28th.
- Several administrative staff were able to attend CSAVR during the second week of April.

- We have staff working on the Employment First Task Force, regarding sub-minimum wage. This is an ongoing project.
- The DA spoke at a 14c workshop hosted by the Department of Labor. The focus was on WIOA Sec. 511, Part 397, which is about the use of sub-minimum wage.
- The Transition team hired Jeff Newton as a Program Field Representative. He has been heavily involved in many transition projects in his former position. We are very fortunate to have him working with this unit.
- Renee reports that there will be over 530 students who will participate in BEST STEP and STEM (with 7 locations). VIBE is now taking applications.
- The Business team has hosted 5 IMPACT meetings during the first quarter of the year. These meetings have been attended by no less than 35 employers at each meeting. In OKC there were 56 businesses involved.
- There were 34 businesses and 197 job seekers at the recent "Ready, Set, Hired!" job fair event.
- The Business team has provided 6 trainings on Disability Awareness. The customers include Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, YWCA, AARP, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, Mercy Hospitals and Human Resources Chapters through the State.
- Jason Price reports that VR/SBVI has \$1,037,425.79 in revenue stemming from 83 beneficiaries going completely off SSI/SSDI through the close of business on April 30, 2025.

I'm extremely proud of the VR team and our efforts to assist Oklahomans with disabilities in fulfilling their dreams of a higher quality of life through employment. The staff work extremely hard and rise to every occasion that is asked of them.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Oklahoma School for the Deaf Donation Report

OSD Donation Report

March 2025

Donations Under \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00		<hr/>		Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	<hr/>

Donations Over \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
3/24	Chickasaw Nation	\$ 2,150.00	70100/10004	Football National Champ Rings	<hr/>
Subtotal Cash Over \$500.00		\$ 2,150.00		Subtotal Property Over \$500.00	

Subtotal Cash Combined

Subtotal Property Combined

Total donations for March 2025

\$2,150.00

OSD Donation Report April 2025

Donations Under \$500.00


Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
4/17/2025	Scarlett Matherly		Classroom	Various items	\$ 103.13
4/17/2025	Raye Shilen		Classroom	Classroom supplies	\$ 31.35
4/17/2025	Kara Floyd		Prom	Prom items	\$ 49.93
4/17/2025	Terra Siscon		Prom	Prom items	\$ 53.93
4/17/2025	Marge Thompson		Prom	Prom items	\$ 83.38
4/17/2025	Ruth Ann Shores		Prom	Prom items	\$ 29.96
4/17/2025	Starla Davidson		Prom	Prom items	\$ 36.66
4/17/2025	Trudy Mitchell		Prom	Prom items	\$ 53.44
4/17/2025	Anonymous		Prom	Prom items	\$ 20.97
4/17/2025	Jason Johnson		Prom	Prom items	\$ 35.47
4/17/2025	Anonymous		Prom	Prom items	\$ 19.75
4/22/2025	Jamie-Lynn Robinson		Prom	Prom items	\$ 133.77
4/23/2025	Anonymous		Prom	Prom items	\$ 13.99
12/13/2024	OSD Foundation		HS Boys Dorm	Pop-A-Shot	\$ 279.21
4/28/2025	Restored Hearts & Soles		Boys Needs	Shoes	\$ 49.99
4/28/2025	Restored Hearts & Soles		Girls Needs	Shoes	\$ 39.99
4/30/2025	Unknown		Prom	Prom items	\$ 20.09
4/30/2025	Trertows This & That		Student Needs	Clothes	\$ 36.00
Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00				Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	\$ 1,091.01

Donations Over \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
4/17/2025	ESA	\$ 1,092.00	70100/20300	General Sorority	
4/23/2025	OSD Foundation	\$ 1,428.00	Campus	OSDF paid Thinkific program for ASL class	
4/24/2025	Leadership Murray County	\$ 708.99	70100/10008	Dorm Home Decorations	
4/30/2025	Martin Maretta Plant		Student Needs	Hygiene Products for Residential Students	\$ 559.64
3/20/2025	EM Woody Fund/Aged LLC	\$ 150,000.00	Hearing Aid Program	Hearing Aids for Seniors	
Subtotal Cash Over \$500.00		\$ 153,228.99		Subtotal Property Over \$500.00	\$ 559.64
Subtotal Cash Combined		\$ 153,228.99		Subtotal Property Combined	\$1,650.65

Total donations for April 2025

\$154,879.64



Oklahoma School for the Blind Donation Report

OSB DONATION REPORT

April 2025 Donations

Donations under \$500

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
4/1/2025	Honda of Muskogee / Casting Beyond Sight event	\$ 250.00	701		
4/1/2025	Doug & Kim Walton / Casting Beyond Sight event	\$ 250.00	701		

Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in April 2025

\$ 500.00

Subtotal prop.

\$ -

Donations \$500 and over

\$ -

4/23/2025 ESA International/ESA needy

\$ 1,092.00 701

Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in April 2025

\$ 1,092.00

Subtotal prop.

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS April - 2025

\$1,592.00



Commission Minutes

March 12, 2025



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

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 she 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, 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 VOCATION 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 and 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 OLBPH 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.



Commission Minutes

April 16, 2025



Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Commissioner Barresi with a quorum present: Dr. Janet Barresi, Vice-Chair, and Kelsey Lee, Member.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS FROM THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

Dr. Laine introduced several OSD students who were part of a team that won or placed at regional and national competitions including cheerleading, math, drones, Gallaudet's Battle of the Books, ESports, MS Rove Team, Science Fairs, Robotics and Basketball. Congratulations to all the teams and also to Alex Layton, 2025 OSD Valedictorian!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director

Report Highlights:

Meeting and Events attended:

- ORC Executive Committee meeting
- Ready, Set, Hired Job Fair - Hosted by Yasmin Guillen and the Business Enterprise Program
- CSAVER Spring Conference
- Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) meeting.

Other information:

- Process Improvement is using software to identify and eliminate errors in raw data; is testing updates to AWARE; and continuing to facilitate AWARE training for staff.
- Case Review - Quality Assurance (QA) team is working on a Statewide Audit of cases for federal compliance.
- Program Standards, Statistical Research, Data Requirements - Two dashboards are complete and are in the accessibility testing phases: The 2024-2025 State Department of Education Child Count IEP and School Work Study and Work Adjustment Training.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison

Director Fruendt gave the Legislative Report in Jennifer Hardin's absence. Two bills, HB 2387 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 Senate bill was referred to House Oversight and a meeting was set for 9:00 AM on April 9th.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Tom Patt, HR Director

As of March 31, 2025, there were 7 vacant positions filled and 51 positions open. There were three separations which included retirements, resignations, and discharges. There were 956 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Kevin Statham, CFO

- Financial Status Report for FY 2025. As of February 28, 2025, the agency spent \$98.7M of the \$199M budget, with remaining encumbrances of \$88.6M which represent 93.9% of the budget.
- The Capital Outlay request will be presented to the Commission at the June meeting.
- Mr. Statham and Jennifer Hardin spoke to Representatives Pae and Gise, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the A&B Subcommittee for Human Services, about the upcoming budget. The \$150,000 for the AIM Center will likely be approved. The proposed flat funding of DRS will result in a loss of \$2.4 million of matchable federal funds, plus a \$1.4M Maintenance of Effort (MOE) penalty. The total impact on the Vocational Rehabilitation program would be a decrease of \$5.2 million. The agency will continue to advocate for its budget request.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Mark Beutler, Director of Communications

Report Highlights:

- Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD) was a success with over 700 attendees, 71 exhibitors, and substantial media coverage.
- Met with the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters about continuing the contract to air OKDRS public service announcements (PSAs).
- Interviewing production companies about creating new PSAs.

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED REPORT

Tracy Brigham, Division Administrator

Priority Group Update as of April 14, 2025

- 18 clients were released off the Priority Group 3 waitlist on April 2nd.
- Priority Groups 1 and 2 are open.
- Priority Group 3 is closed, clients waiting: 9
Total clients on waiting list: 9

Portal Referral Update:

- 49 applications received:
 - 25 active referrals
 - 19 referrals pending assignment
 - 7 new applications
 - 3 closed – refused service
 - 3 closed – other reasons

Report Highlights:

- A Visually Impaired and Blindness Empowerment (VIBE) camp will be held on the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) campus in Muskogee this summer. This week-long program prepares the individual for higher education, competitive workforce and independent living. Students will learn independent living skills, communication skills, team building, travel/transportation, career and job exploration, interviews, technology, resume skills, and exploration of college/career tech/workforce.
- A training is being planned geared towards continuing the partnership and high service provisions of OKDRS and the Tribes.

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (SBVI) AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) TRANSITION REPORT

Renee N. Sansom Briscoe, Transition Coordinator

Report Highlights:

- Thirty-one Pre-Employment Transition (Pre-ETS) specialists are providing services in over 250 schools including Central Tech and Kiamichi Tech.
- The position of Programs Field Representative for the Southwest region of the state will be filled soon.
- The School Work Study (SWS) program has over 300 school districts for FY25, which is an increase from past years.
- There are 556 students signed up for the Best Step program held in July. Best Step helps youth ages 16-21 with disabilities gain summer work experience and improve employment readiness.
- Sooner Works Summer Academy, which is a residential summer college experience for high school students with disabilities, will be held in June at the University of Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF REPORT

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

Report Highlights:

- The Class of 2025 graduation is May 21st at 1:00 PM on the OSD Campus.
- Dr. Laine attended the CEASD (Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf) 2025 conference and came back with many ideas on improving the school.
- OSD's Family Engagement and Early Language Supports hosted the first ever family weekend retreat at the Chickasaw Retreat Center in March and 18 families attended.

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

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

This item was tabled until the May 14, 2025 meeting.

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

Brent Pearce, Superintendent

The donations for March 2025 totaled \$3,932.85.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to accept the March 2025 OSB 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 March 2025 totaled \$1144.00.

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

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

Theresa Flannery, Chair

This item was tabled until the May 14, 2025 meeting.

ADJOURN

Theresa Flannery, Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to adjourn. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.