

September 2017 Commission Report

Commissioners, as always it's a pleasure to submit a report of activities occurring in the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division. Please see the bullet items below for details.

- Currently our successful closures are at 1547 which is two less than this time last year. Applications and plans are down, which is not surprising due to Order of Selection. This will most likely effect our overall successful outcomes for the next two years.
- Wages are up 6.0% in VR on reported successful outcomes.
- Our average application to eligibility time is 28 days which is outstanding.
- Our average eligibility to plan time is 61 days which is also outstanding.
- We are beginning the second year of Sec. 511 Part 397 requirements of WIOA Limitations the use of subminimum wage. Our VR/VS PM's have been assigned various Sheltered Workshops/14 c holders to work with. Our counselors will also become more involved at this time as well, in addition to the youth 24 and under they are working with. I had the opportunity to present information with Rosemarie Chitwood and Kim Osmani recently at two conferences, The Association of People Supporting in Employment First (APSE) annual conference, and The Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) midyear conference, as well as various meetings with the Department of Labor and Sheltered Workshop/14c employers.
- We are working on the completion of our responses to our state audit that occurred this year. Our expected completion date is September 30, 2017. A training session was held for our Programs Managers that was conducted by Field Coordinators, Chris Kennedy, and Terri Murphy. Our PM's are now training their staff.
- Teresa McDermott and I have been working with our Field Coordinators and Rehab. Tech., Lesli Dismukes to conduct a mandatory scanning training for Rehab. Techs and Program Managers.
- Many of our previously vacant positions are now being filled. I want to express appreciation to Diane Bowers, and Program Managers for working diligently to get these positions filled. Also, Kevin Statham has worked exceptionally well with us on the budget.

- A great amount of work continues in terms of WIOA and the Comprehensive Centers. Teresa and I will be making decisions as time moves forward in regards to staffing and other issues as they arise.
- Teresa and I are starting to meet with Randy Weaver and Carolyn Pendarvis on a monthly basis to discuss property management and location issues.
- The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Associations Annual Conference was held recently and many of our staff received honors which include the following: Inspiration Award went to Abby DeBlase, Leadership Award went to Chris Kennedy, Distinguished Service Award went to Terri Murphy, Counselor of the year went to Valyncia Wilson, Hubert E. Byrd Professional of the Year went to Tracy Brigham, Employer of the Year went to The Galt Foundation, and the Media Award went to The Lawton Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Kinnison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Kinnison, M.Ed., CRC, LPC-S
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Division Administrator