

March 11, 2019 OKDRS Regular Commission Meeting Submitted by Melinda Freundt, Director

Remembrance

The DRS family remembers Larry Hawkins, Superintendent, Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD). He was a dedicated educator serving for 14 years as OSD superintendent, nearly three years as Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) superintendent, one year as OSD administrator, and six years as a classroom teacher. Larry was a true friend as well as a highly regarded co-worker, who will be deeply missed by the deaf community.

Executive

DRS Academy - Welcome and agency structure presented by director.

State Capitol – Follow-up meeting on budgetary items with Representative Mark Lawson.

VR/VS Performance Measures Team kicked off first meeting.

Oklahomans for Special Library Services executive team met with the director.

Oklahoma Partnership on School Readiness – meeting attended by the director.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) – vying for two accreditations; AdvancEd and CEASD. The executive team at OSD worked very hard on preparing for and during team joint schedules on site.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

OK Unified State Plan

The Rehabilitation Services Administration has published the modifications to the Oklahoma Unified State Plan that were submitted on April 2, 2018. The State Plan modification covers PYs 2018 and 2019 and is effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. The link to access Oklahoma's Unified State Plan for 2018 is <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/wioa/state-plans/ok.pdf>

Workforce Tulsa recognition

DRS was recognized at the quarterly partners meeting held by Workforce Tulsa as Most Collaborative Partner of the quarter. Accepting the certificate on behalf of DRS: David White, VR; Jackie James, VS; Melissa Newton, VR; Simone Jones, Business Services. David White is to be commended for spending extra work time to increase partnerships with Workforce Tulsa in leading Access for All. Charlie Watt, ADA Coordinator, is to be commended for his efforts in working on physical accessibility concerns in this area.

Communications

The DRS Communications Team has been working to get ready for the 24th PWDAD set for 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., March 12, at state Capitol. 100 volunteers. 84 exhibitors. OSB Jazz Band performance. Registration will be closed when the Commission meeting happens, but we still welcome everyone to come – registered or not – to visit legislators and tell their stories. Come to the first floor rotunda to check in and get a program in standard or accessible formats. And remember; Be seen! Wear green!

Process Improvement (PI)**AWARE**

The AWARE team has completed training of the Division of Visual Services (DVS) Instructional staff for entering Actual Services to record their services for the 911 and for DVS management purpose.

Currently preparing for four regional transition training sessions starting the end of March to teach Transition staff how to properly enter educational goals, measurable skill gains and pre-employment transition services.

Still in the early stages of a project with Alliance to build a portal to allow outside contractors such as the program at OU to provide pre-ETS for eligible and potentially eligible students that can be pulled into the AWARE system for full 911 reporting. In addition, another project to assist DRS Financial Services Division (FSD) with compliance with the prior approval for equipment purchases for clients. Made changes to the AWARE system and have built Tableau reports to help with that process and have been in meetings with Alliance staff to help make system changes to give FSD more control of the payment release process.

Case Review

The QA (Quality Assurance) team conducted a teleconference with Missouri QA Administrator Tim Gravier to discuss and explore best practices in auditing, Feb 4, 2019.

Focus of February was to work on the Instrument Guide, authored by Victoria Drake. The Guide is in the final editing stage by the team and is intended to show expectations of what a Reviewer is looking for when auditing a case file. Tina Calloway has partnered in the process by updating the links to policy and federal regulations as appropriate to ensure accessibility of the document.

Clarification regarding DRS Presumption of Eligibility policy and procedures was requested and reviewed with WINTAC consultant, Betsy Hopkins.

Normal audit occurred of cases closed between 12/16/2018 and 1/15/2019 amounting to approximately 132 cases reviewed in February. Purpose of the reviews is to determine Federal compliance and identify statewide training needs.

Program Standards, Statistical Research

The research staff finished initiated the VR and VS Open case survey with revisions and input from Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC). The staff continue to work on the Needs Assessment and on the OK Works for All's pilot project.

Policy

Administrative Rule Public Hearings were conducted on February 4th in Oklahoma City, February 5th in Tulsa and February 6th in Lawton. 2019 proposed administrative rules were presented at the ORC Quarterly Meeting held on February 21st.