

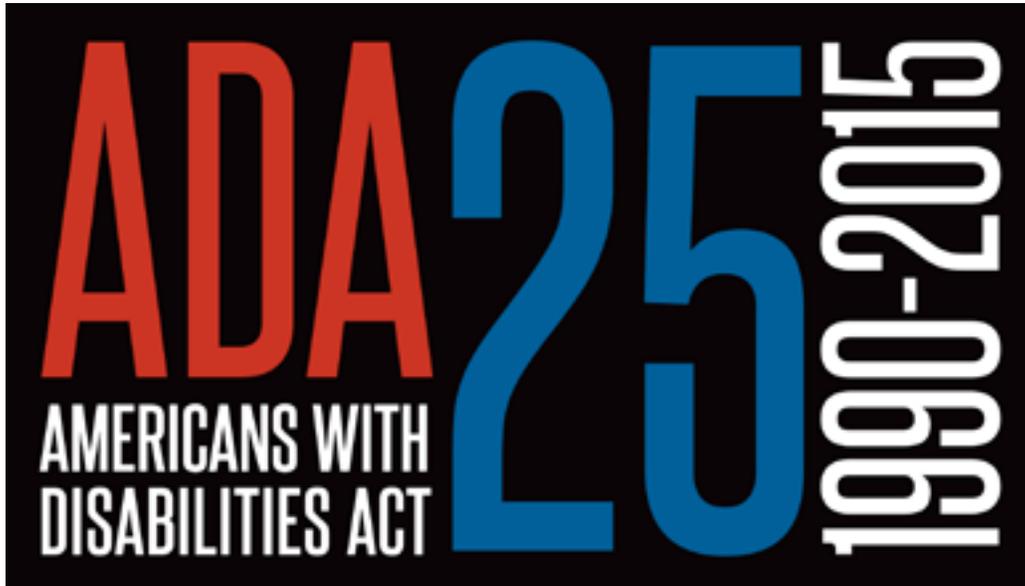
ORC

OKLAHOMA
REHABILITATION
COUNCIL



2015

ANNUAL REPORT



25th Anniversary of the ADA

The ORC is proudly featuring the 25th Anniversary of the ADA throughout its Annual Report.

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council

2015 Annual Report

We Are The Voice of the Consumer!

Mission

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

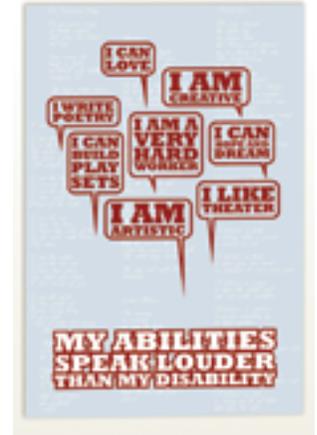
Structure

DRS (Department of Rehabilitation) contracts with the Department of Wellness at Oklahoma State University (OSU) for the provision of the staff support services for the ORC as set forth in Section 105 and Section 4.2 of the State Plan of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Director of Sponsored Programs at the Department of Wellness hires, supervises, and evaluates a full-time Program Manager position for the daily operations of the council and a part-time administrative assistant. In addition, OSU manages all contractual financial obligations of the council. In turn, DSU provides in-kind services of office space, phone and computer access to the council staff.

<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Strategic Plan	4
Program and Planning Committee	4
Goal 1	4
Goal 2	7
Executive Committee	8
Goal 3	8
Policy and Legislative Committee	10
Goal 4	10
Transition and Employment Committee	12
Goal 5	12
Year in Review	15
Appendices	
A Cost Breakdown by County	26
B Council Members and Staff	28
C Legislative Primer	30
D Support Letters	32 - 35

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Strategic Plan for FFY15

The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council complies with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) federal functions and related work tasks as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Rehabilitation Act, as Amended 1998. This is accomplished through a strategic plan process that creates a blended document of federal SRC mandates (as defined by WIOA) and ORC specific goals, objectives and activities.



The following FFY15 Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council’s Strategic Plan provides a concisely, blended report of both SRC WIOA mandates and the additional goals, objectives and activities which the ORC undertook to advance the ORC’s mission to facilitate consumer education and empowerment to assure that services are of high quality and lead to employment of individuals with disabilities. The ORC Strategic Plan is created annually and implemented through a coordinated committee process consisting of the following 4 committees: Program and Planning, Executive, Policy and Legislative and Transition and Employment.

Program and Planning Committee

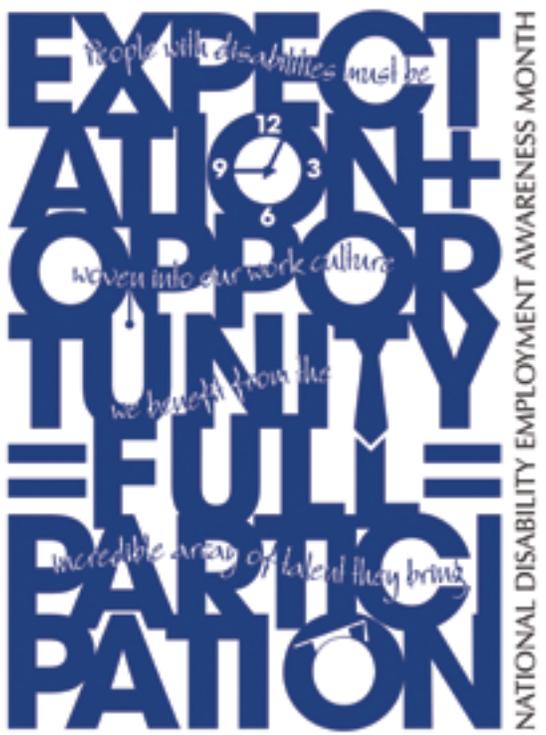
Review, analyze and advise DSU on the SRC WIOA standards and indicators as laid out by Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; Active participation on the DSU State Plan Meetings; Active participation on the DSU Comprehensive Needs Assessment development initiative and analyze the trends of the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Goal 1: In accordance with Section 105 (A)(c)(i), the Program and Planning Committee, will quarterly or as necessary, review, analyze and advise DSU on the standards and indicators, customer satisfaction statewide comprehensive needs assessment, and other relevant data.

Program and Planning Committee Objectives	Met
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-1:	Yes
<p>The Council must, after consulting with the State Workforce Development Board review, analyze, and advise the Designated State unit regarding the performance of the State unit’s responsibilities under this part, particularly responsibilities related to Eligibility, including order of selection.</p> <p>Explanation: Quarterly review of DVR/DVS data to review all case data and ensure timeliness of eligibility, writing of plans and all other Standards and Indicators to be met. Utilizing Oklahoma Works, Workforce Systems meeting and conference information for review and analyze for further action items to bring to the council. Collaborate with DSU to develop partnerships with other state and federal agencies to identify and address unmet needs of consumers to better utilize resources.</p>	

Program and Planning Committee Objectives	Met
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-1 <i>(continued)</i> :	Yes
<p>The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and functions performed by State agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under this part.</p> <p>Explanation: Successful closures from DVR/DVS were 2,300 for FFY15. The closure goal for the DSU was met.</p>	
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-2:	Yes
<p>In partnership with the designated State unit — develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with Sec. 361.29(c); and <i>(see 1-2 continued below)</i></p> <p>Explanation: Last year’s public hearings; the dates were May 13, 2014, May 14, 2014 and May 15, 2014. Ongoing participation with policy committee and collaboration with agency to promote and host public hearings.</p>	
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-2 <i>(continued)</i> :	Yes
<p>Evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Secretary in accordance with Sec. 361.29(e).</p> <p>Explanation: Refer to Appendix A on page 26.</p>	
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-3:	Yes
<p>Advise the designated State agency and the designated State unit regarding activities carried out under this part and assist in the preparation of the State plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by this part.</p> <p>Note: Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council is a full partner with state plan discussion and preparation as well as the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. The DSU and SRC will complete steps one and two and initiate step three. The model CSNA process includes six steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining and establishing CSNA goals; Developing CSNA plan for information and dissemination; Gather the information; Analyzing the results and developing findings; Developing the conclusions; Potential action strategies; and Informing state plan goals, priorities, and strategies. <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	



<p>Program and Planning Committee Objectives</p>	<p>Met</p>
<p>SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-3 (continued):</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Year 1 – The DSU and SRC will complete steps one and two, and initiate step three.</p> <p>Accomplishments: Work and advisory teams were established. Goals were defined.</p> <p>A work plan, timeline and dissemination plan were developed. Possible sources of data were identified including census data, state population estimates; labor and economic data; and DVR agency data. Work team initiated data gathering.</p> <p>Year 2 – The DSU and SRC will complete step three. Step 3 continued as described above.</p> <p>Accomplishments: Work team began collection of data from identified sources. Multiple surveys were distributed to stakeholders. Public meetings were held to identify needs of partners such as schools, workforce, CRPs, consumers and the public.</p> <p>Changes to be added to Step 3 due to WIOA:</p>
<p>Additional plans were developed to include needs of youth and students with disabilities and clients of workforce. These plans include gathering existing data from IDEA/504 reports, existing data from external transition needs studies, data from the workforce development system, and including these topics in the public hearings.</p>	
<p>SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-4:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with; the functions performed by the designated State agency; the vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the Act; and the employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services under this part, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with those employment outcomes.</p> <p>Explanation: Client success stories were sent in and client satisfaction surveys were completed. This committee will serve as a repository from information groups to make consumer disability recommendations to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council for potential collaborations, partnerships and/or initiatives.</p>	

Goal 2: The Program and Planning Committee will support quality customer services, career planning and effective employment.

Program and Planning Committee Activities	Met
Activity 1 - Request the DSU to report the findings of the customer satisfaction survey for open and closed cases, annually or every two years as conducted.	Yes
Activity 2 - Field Coordinators will continue to report on the performance activities using the standards and indicators data template at the quarterly ORC meetings.	Yes
Activity 3 - Report and Recommend current data to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Program Manager for inclusion on the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council website.	Yes
Activity 4 - Continue to support all disability groups and report any new information regarding them to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council.	Yes
Activity 5 - Collaborate with the DSU through the state plan process to include the development of the goals and priorities.	Yes

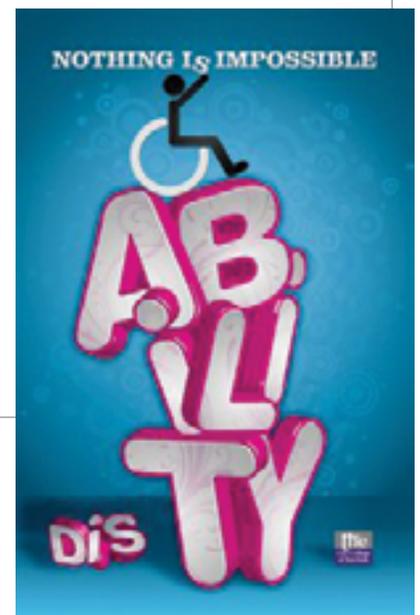


Executive Committee

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

Goal 3: Maintain standing committees that address the goals and objectives outlined by the ORC, the DSU State Plan, and the Rehabilitation Act (i.e., Policy and Legislative Committee, Program and Planning Committee, and Transition and Employment Committee).
Every ORC member will serve on a committee(s).

Executive Committee Objectives	Met
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-1:	Yes
<p>Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary no later than 90 days after the end of the Federal fiscal year an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public through appropriate modes of communication.</p> <p>Explanation: Annual Report submitted to the Governor and the U S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration prior to deadline for FY15.</p>	
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-2:	Yes
<p>Perform other comparable functions, consistent with the purpose of this part, as the Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.</p> <p>Explanation: Given the recent passage of the Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council has closely partnered with the DSU to ensure that appropriate emphasis is being placed on 'accessibility' for increased employability of all job seekers. The Council has established quarterly reports on this new initiative which focuses on both physical and technological accessibility at all workforce sites statewide as well as the accessibility of all core partners named in WIOA.</p>	



SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1:2 (continued):	Yes
<p>Resources. The Council, in conjunction with the Designated State unit, must prepare a plan for the provision of resources, including staff and other personnel that may be necessary and sufficient for the Council to carry out its functions under this part. The resource plan must, to the maximum extent possible, rely on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the plan. Any disagreements between the designated State unit and the Council regarding the amount of resources necessary to carry out the functions of the Council must be resolved by the Governor, consistent with paragraphs (i)(1) and (2) of this section. The Council must, consistent with State law, supervise and evaluate the staff and personnel that are necessary to carry out its functions. Those staff and personnel that are assisting the Council in carrying out its functions may not be assigned duties by the designated State unit or any other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Explanation: The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council has an established contract with the DSU through Oklahoma State University's Department of Wellness. This contract clearly defines an annual Scope of Work and Budget, which addresses contractual deliverables as defined in the Strategic Plan as well as staff salaries. Council staff meets quarterly with the DSU Director and both Division Administrators to ensure seamless execution of the Goals, Objectives and Activities of the Strategic Plan as determined through Section 105 (b)(1)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act.</p>	

Executive Committee Activities	Met
Activity 1 - Meet with DSU Division Administrators and the State Director, quarterly, or as needed, to maintain regular communication and collaborate on the development of the agenda.	Yes
Activity 2 - As a Council vacancy opens, the Program Manager will recruit, recommend, and consult with the Governor's Deputy of Appointments to ensure membership compliance with the Rehabilitation Act.	Yes
Activity 3 - Actively recruit and outreach with businesses and disability organizations to educate them on the services of DSU as well as the SRC purpose.	Yes
Activity 4 - Continue to coordinate with the DSU Division Administrators to ensure attendance of Field Coordinators and associate members to attend quarterly meetings.	Yes
Activity 5 - The Program Manager will participate on the DSU's WDB (Workforce Development Board) Team.	Yes
<i>(continued)</i>	

Executive Committee Activities (continued)	Met
Activity 6 - The ORC will send at least one representative to the SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council) quarterly meetings and a SILC representative will attend and report to the ORC on SILC activities.	Yes
Activity 7 - Explore opportunities for orientation of SILC members on the role of the ORC.	Yes
Activity 8 - Continually review and update the ORC Website.	Yes

Policy and Legislative Committee

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

Goal 4: The ORC will build capacity for consumer education and empowerment to showcase awareness and education for both consumers and employers.

Policy and Legislative Committee Objectives	Met
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-1:	Yes
<p>To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under 34 CFR part 364, the advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council described in Section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the State mental health planning council established under Section 1914(a) of the Public Health Service Act, the assistive technology grant and the State workforce investment board.</p> <p>Explanation: Efforts were coordinated to ensure activities with other councils in the state throughout the year for FY15. Disability primer created to promote education and awareness to Oklahoma Legislators. This will show the partnership with the agency, DSU, to assist Oklahoma Legislators as they review and discuss laws and regulations moving forward. The goal is to have it completed prior to the 2016 Oklahoma Legislative Session.</p>	



A second primer was also created to use with the general public at various statewide disability-related events. New brochures and a banner were created to promote education and

awareness to Oklahomans with Disabilities and those advocating for people with disabilities. As an ADA 25th Anniversary initiative, ORC is working in collaboration with DSU to jointly promote the Icon Accessibility Project within the state of Oklahoma. DSU ADA Coordinator has garnered support from the Oklahoma Municipal League as well as Sally Conway; they support this proposal to help shape a positive attitude towards individuals with disabilities. This is a work in progress, which will continue during the Anniversary year and may culminate in legislative support going forward. ORC supports this Icon project as it can be supportive outreach for Disability Awareness Day and other disability related activities. Have plans to utilize Twitter and Facebook as well as weekly tips. Also, plan to do annual contests for new client success stories.

SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1-2:	Yes
Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living within the State.	
<i>Explanation:</i> SRC maintained a working relationship with the DSU and the Oklahoma SILC through FY15.	
SRC WIOA Mandate - Objective 1:3:	No
Research and pursue accessible voting options for Oklahomans with disabilities.	
<i>Explanation:</i> ORC decided not to move forward with this objective due to the lack of research, manpower, time and money this effort would require. ORC will follow what the national Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is doing to support this project nationwide and how they might provide states with needed technical assistance.	

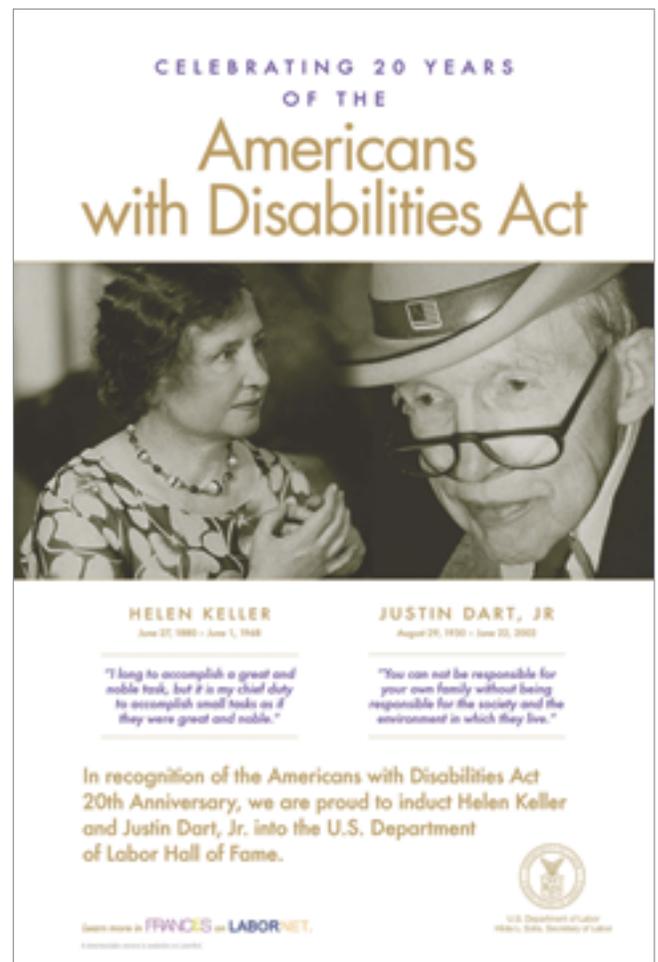
Policy and Legislative Committee Activities	Met
Activity 1 - Promote and increase the number of Consumer Success Stories (CSS) to be distributed annually to key stakeholders at the DSU Disability Awareness Day, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Capitol Hill visits, the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor. Post new stories quarterly on the ORC website and share with members at the ORC quarterly meetings.	Yes
Activity 2 - Continue participation and input with DVR/DVS Division Staff to ensure the DSU policies are in alignment with the Rehabilitation Act, Oklahoma consumer needs and employment outcomes.	Yes
Activity 3 - Partner with DSU on "Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol", by marketing the event, setting up an exhibitor booth, and assisting consumers by being legislative guides.	Yes
<i>(continued)</i>	

Policy and Legislative Committee Activities	Met
<p>Activity 5 - The ORC will partner with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and National Council of State Administrators of the Blind (NCSAB) on federal legislative initiatives by attending the spring and/or fall meetings and by participating in national sub-committee activities and providing updates to full council. Council members to go as well.</p>	Yes
<p>Activity 6 - Provide public comment on policy changes, promote consumer attendance at all public hearings and distribute flyers with summary of proposed changes and information on public hearings.</p>	Yes

Transition and Employment Committee

Active participation on the Oklahoma Transition Council. Support DSU with statewide efforts to enhance transition activities and services for youth in secondary settings to increase successful employment outcomes. The primary focus of this committee will be to support activities which provide enhanced services to youth and students with disabilities to help them prepare for life after high school, including, but not limited to, further education/training, competitive integrated employment, independent living and social skills, self-determination, and self-advocacy.

Goal 5: Collaborate with the DSU to address the utilization of in-demand occupation information during the career planning process as well as the enhancement of a job seeker page on the DSU website in accessible formats for all DSU consumers.



Transition and Employment Committee Objectives	Met
Objective 1-1:	No
<p>Partner to add links to the DSU website with live links to host demand occupation information gathered from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics and other sources. We may need examples on how to understand the website information. Gather information regarding programs that are currently missing from the website.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify existing job preparation tools (e.g., www.okcareerguide.com) to be included as resources on this dedicated page. 2. Create and develop the content of the page to be provided in layout format for DSU Communications Office. 3. Develop partnership buy-in from ORC member organizations to link with this resource from their websites. 4. Market the page. 5. Integrate 2.4 in the Job Seeker page. OK Career Guide replacing OKCIS. Add transition care notebook, increase job shadowing, in demand occupations, host events about these things, list programs available, like Project Search and ljobs. Embed this information with the new web page. <p>Explanation: Although the Transition and Employment Committee met quarterly throughout FFY15, this objective was not completed. The Transition and Employment Committee will continue this work as part of the FFY16 Strategic Plan.</p>	
Objective 1-2:	No
<p>Review DSU successful closure data for adults and transition age youth to determine if there is a correlation between agency closures and demand occupations. Working with DSU to get this information.</p> <p>Explanation: Data was not successfully gathered in FFY15; the Transition and Employment Committee will continue this effort in FFY16.</p>	
Objective 1:3:	No
<p>Identify underutilized in-demand occupation areas that could be a potential job match for consumers. Develop ways to encourage and support to facilitate training with staff. Where is the gap? Where is our focus? Nationwide? Regional? Statewide?</p> <p>Explanation: Efforts were not successfully completed with this objective; the Transition and Employment Committee will continue this work in FFY16.</p>	

Goal 6: Develop an instrument to assist DSU consumers to inform all disability support organizations in Oklahoma. This would complement the Transition Planning Folder and Keeping Track of Your Progress tools. It will be disseminated to parents, students, teachers and other stakeholders.

<p>Transition and Employment Committee Activities</p>	<p>Met</p>
<p>Activity 1 - Invite transition teams to present the progress of their team plans, including best practices, at the quarterly ORC meetings.</p> <p>Explanation: Efforts were not successfully completed with the activity; the Transition and Employment Committee will continue this work in FFY16.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Activity 2 - The DSU Transition Coordinator will share Indicator 14 – Post-School Outcome reports provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services with the committee.</p> <p>Explanation: DSU and SDE were unable to meet during FFY15 to discuss how they can collaborate better and get this information.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Activity 3 - ORC will support participation of Oklahoma Transition Council (OTC) including its collaboration with National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT).</p> <p>Explanation: Ongoing. ORC Program Manager attends monthly meetings to the OTC and continues to help organize and participate in the Oklahoma Transition Institute.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Activity 4 - Highlight success stories of transition students with legislators in each region.</p> <p>Explanation: There are plans to do this activity in FFY16</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Activity 5 - Annually review the State Department of Education, Special Education Child Count Data, to study trends and report to DSU in order for the DSU to have an awareness of future needs of both consumers and personnel.</p> <p>Explanation: Efforts were not successfully completed with this activity; the Transition and Employment Committee will continue this work in FFY16.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Activity 6 - Invite Workforce Development Board and local youth committee representatives to attend ORC quarterly meetings to report on the efforts made toward employment for persons with disabilities within their region. We should have one per quarter and develop partnerships with youth and WBD.</p> <p>Explanation: There are plans to do this activity in FFY16.</p>	<p>No</p>

Year In Review

2015 Annual Report

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

During 2015, the ORC fulfilled all membership requirements of Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act with appointments by the Governor. The council had 16 members, 3 being ex-officio nonvoting members from DSU. Of the voting members, the council had 53% representation from persons with disabilities. The council members are a cross-section of individuals with disabilities who have a stake in vocational rehabilitation services. Members serve three-year terms, with the exception of the Client Assistance Program representative; no voting member can serve more than two consecutive full terms.

The council structure includes a Chair, Vice-Chair and three members-at-large as Executive Committee members. Each member-at-large of the Executive Committee holds the position of Chair on a committee. At the request of the ORC, the agency has assigned a staff liaison to each committee that acts as a content specialist to that committee called Associate Members. The Associate Members are vital due to the importance of the work of each committee.

(See Appendix B, page 28, for photo of council members)

Quarterly Meetings

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act, the council scheduled and held four quarterly meetings during FFY15 and held an annual strategic planning meeting.

Meeting dates were:

- March 21, 2104 (Strategic Planning)
- November 20, 2014
- February 19, 2015
- May 21, 2015
- August 27, 2015

Sub-committees met at least once per quarter throughout the year, or more often if needed, to complete their tasks as outlined in the ORC Strategic Plan.

To request additional copies or alternate formats of this publication or for more information about the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council please contact:

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
 3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112-4824
 (405) 951-3579 V/TTY • (405) 951-3532 Fax
orc.okstate.edu
renee.sansom@okstate.edu



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Bill Dunham

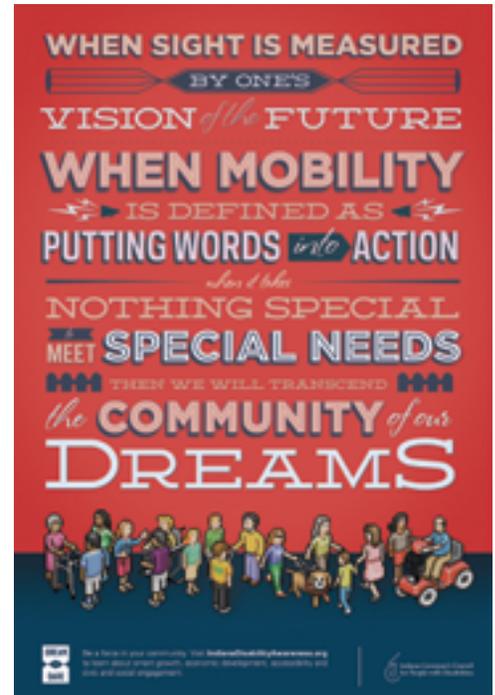
Comprised of the SRC Chair, Vice-Chair, and 3 members-at-large. The Executive Committee also consists of the Associate Director and Director of Sponsored Programs of the OSU, Department of Wellness, who oversees the contractual administration of the ORC. Ensures that committees are assigned to meet the requirements of Section 105 of the Rehab Act with regard to the following activities:

- Public Hearings
- State Plan
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Customer Satisfaction
- Annual Report

- The ongoing dialogue between the DSU Director and ORC kept us informed of agency activities. DSU was not under an Order of Selection during the FY15 year and more than 20,000 job seekers were served in the state of Oklahoma.

- The Executive Committee works to oversee council activities in response to the mandated functions. It manages all council operations and ensures council decisions and recommendations are implemented. The Chair serves as the primary point of contact for the council.

- The Executive Committee continued to work closely with the Director to build a positive working relationship to accomplish the necessary tasks of the council. This included much involvement with the Designated State Unit (DSU) on their policy development teams, Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) and development of the state plan. In collaboration with the ORC, the DSU divisions of vocational rehabilitation and visual services continue to incorporate findings from all the CSNA into the state strategies and priorities.

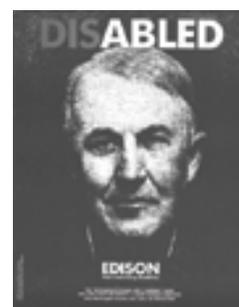
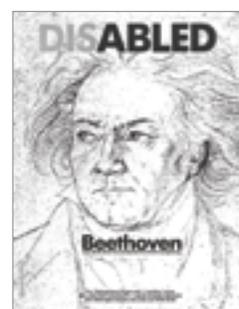
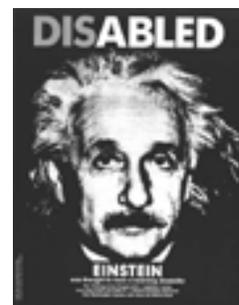


POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson – William Ginn | DSU Liaison – Jean Jones

Committee activities include, but are not limited to, advocacy and education, policy and State Plan review, State Plan Public Hearings and success stories. The committee is also responsible for:

- reviewing/monitoring pending and current disability-related legislation, particularly with respect to impact on funding;
- suggesting/developing legislation as needed;
- active participation on the DSU Policy Re-engineering Committee.
- support DSU with both national and state efforts to enhance advocacy activities and services for DVR/DVS clientele.
- The assigned liaison for this committee is the DSU Legislative Coordinator. This committee educates, informs and influences the state and federal legislative agenda as it relates to the public vocational rehabilitation program and disability employment policies.
- The Policy and Legislative Committee developed a disability primer for Legislators. Disability primer was created to promote education and awareness to Oklahoma Legislators. This will show the partnership with the agency, DSU, to assist Oklahoma Legislators as they review and discuss laws and regulations moving forward. The goal is to have it completed prior to the 2016 Oklahoma Legislative Session. A second primer was also created to use with the general public at various statewide disability-related events – **(See Appendix C, page 30, for the primer)**
- The Policy and Legislative Committee collaborated with the DSU Communication Office with Disability Awareness Day 2015 at the State Capitol. More than 700 people with disabilities and their advocates attended the 2015 event filling the hallways of the State Capitol and sharing their stories with lawmakers. The event drew 78 exhibitors and featured a keynote address by a former client Sarah Ghetto. She performed a variety of music through the love of her piano skills and beautiful voice. There were performances from students from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf as well. Committee members served as legislative guides by providing direction and assistance to participants in visiting their legislators.
- The Policy and Legislative Committee continued its collaboration with DSU in the implementation of the Consumer Success Story. The ORC utilized this information, which was shared with Congressional members in Washington, DC and their local staff. Consumer Success Stories were shared with state legislators in preparation for the Disability Awareness Day event.



(continued)



POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE *(continued)*

- ORC staff and members participated in the CSAVR 2015 spring conference in Bethesda, Maryland, as well as, the 2014 fall conference in Miami, Florida. While in the DC area, visits were made 'On the Hill' to the Oklahoma delegation to advocate for the public DVR program and develop relationships with our Congressional members. This has opened doors to key players involved with legislative issues concerning people with disabilities. Our primary focus this year was the issue and concerns regarding the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act.
- The committee continued its involvement with the DSU Policy Committee, which reviewed and analyzed agency policies to make appropriate recommendations for change to the DSU Commission. The involvement of both ORC and the Client Assistance Program throughout the entire process helps to ensure better understanding of the barriers that clients face regarding proposed changes to DSU policy.
- The ORC sought community input from program participants, advocates, employers, educators, and other stakeholders on proposed policy changes through one public hearing and through the website and emails. This public hearing was co-hosted by DSU and the ORC on February 2, 2015 in Oklahoma City. Public hearings were also held in Tulsa on February 3, 2015 and in Lawton on February 5, 2015. The ORC sent out notices statewide with non-biased information to explain how the proposed changes may affect consumers.

Proposed policy changes were posted on the DSU website to give clients and other stakeholders access to this information. ORC also provided public comments on the proposed revisions. Significant rule changes that became effective in 2015 were:

- Client participation in service cost provisions were modified to base financial need on income alone instead of both income and assets, and the basic living requirements (income) standard was raised. These changes were made to give individuals with significant disabilities greater access to vocational rehabilitation (DVR) services, thus improving their chances to become employed.
- The list of services exempt from client participation in cost was updated to conform to federal law. Job-related services and auxiliary aids or services that are needed to make agency services accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act will now be exempt from client participation in cost requirements.

The involvement of the ORC during policy development allows for true consumer contributions, which aligns with the intent of the Rehabilitation Act. Having ORC and the state's client assistance program involved in the policy development process has proven beneficial, and given individuals with disabilities a greater role in shaping an effective vocational rehabilitation program.

PLANNING AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Judy Atkins | DSU Liaison – Melinda Freundt

Review, analyze and advise DSU on the standards and indicators as laid out by Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Active participation on the DSU State Plan Meetings. Active participation on the DSU Comprehensive Needs Assessment development initiative. Analyze the trends of the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

- The assigned liaison for this committee was the DSU Project Coordinator, Executive Division.
- The DSU reported to the committee that the DVR/DVS open case satisfaction surveys that are done annually, and the closed case satisfaction surveys are reporting very similar information. The agency performs the closed case annual survey in an effort to conserve resources. Survey results were low this year and one factor may be that the consumer's preferred accessible format is not being captured in the case documentation system to allow for correct formats to be sent to the consumers. This is being addressed during the new employee training academies in an effort to resolve this issue. The visual services surveys will be sent out in large print format. The new visual services administrator has asked that a phone survey be conducted on all cases closed as unsuccessful with three or four open ended questions in an effort to gather information regarding quality of services.
- This committee continues to review and analyze data from the DSU to include consumer satisfaction surveys, open case surveys, Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment, employee engagement surveys and other data reports reported to RSA. The committee has requested the State Employment Leadership Network – Oklahoma Findings and Observations Report from DHS-DDS to review for information and findings relevant to consumers the DSU serves.
- The plan for the next three year comprehensive statewide needs assessment, fiscal year's 2014 – 2016 is:
 - In collaboration with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (SRC), the DSU divisions of vocational rehabilitation and visual services will follow the Model Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) methodology developed by InfoUse, Berkeley CA to conduct the needs assessment.
 - The model CSNA addresses rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities, particularly the vocational rehabilitation services needs of: individuals with most significant disabilities, including their need for supported employment services; minorities; individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by DVR ; individuals with disabilities served through other components of the statewide workforce development system (other than the vocational rehabilitation program); youth with disabilities, and students with disabilities; and the need to establish, develop, or improve community rehabilitation programs within the state.

PLANNING AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE (continued)

- The model CSNA process includes six steps:
 1. Defining and establishing CSNA goals;
 2. Developing CSNA plan for information and dissemination;
 3. Gathering the information;
 4. Analyzing the results and developing findings;
 5. Developing the conclusions: Potential action strategies; and,
 6. Informing state plan goals, priorities, and strategies.

- The plan for the next three year statewide assessment is as follows:

Year 1 (FFY14) – The DSU and SRC will complete steps one and two, and initiate step three.

 - Step 1: Defining and establishing CSNA goals. During this phase DSU staff will review available disability data and reports to establish the nature of the potential DVR population within the state as well as identify other agencies and organizations that are resources for information collection. Tables and summaries of relevant report findings will be assembled as a briefing book for use in establishing study goals.
 - Step 2: Developing CSNA plan for information and dissemination. During this phase DSU staff will develop a plan for collecting information, analyzing findings, disseminating results, and informing the state plan. The plan will include the identification of specific data, sources, and methods; data analysis; costs and timeline; and staffing or technical assistance needs.
 - Step 3: Gathering the information. During this phase DSU staff will initiate the collection of data from identified sources and provide a description of the information collection process.
 - Accomplishments:
 - Work and advisory teams were established. Goals were defined.
 - A work plan, timeline and dissemination plan were developed. Possible sources of data were identified including census data, state population estimates; labor and economic data; DVR agency data.
 - Work team initiated data gathering.

- **Year 2 (FFY15)** – The DSU and SRC will complete step three (as described above).

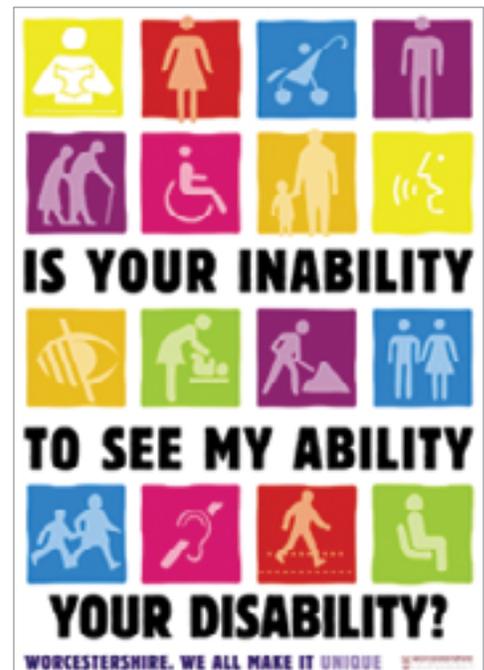
 - Accomplishments:
 - Work team began collection of data from identified sources. Multiple surveys were distributed to stakeholders. Public meetings were held to identify needs of partners such as schools, workforce, CRPs; consumers and the public.

- Changes to be added to Step 3 due to WIOA:
 - Additional plans were developed to include needs of youth and students with disabilities and clients of workforce. These plans include gathering existing data from IDEA/504 reports, existing data from external transition needs studies, data from the workforce development system, and including these topics in the public hearings.

Year 3 (FFY16) – The DSU and SRC will complete:

- Step 4: Analyzing the results and developing findings. Once all the data is collected it will be analyzed and organized by information goal and topic.
- Step 5: Developing the conclusions: Potential action strategies. During this phase, conclusions from work will be developed and potential action strategies generated for each need expressed in findings.
- Step 6: Informing state plan goals, priorities, and strategies. DSU staff will develop recommendations from the CSNA to inform the State Plan.
- Status:

Due to the additional changes to Step 3 due to the WIOA, data collection is still ongoing but nearly complete. Analysis will begin upon completion. Estimated completion date and distribution for the report will be September 30, 2016.



ORC effectively partnered with DSU in the development of the FFY15 State Plan included developing the goals and priorities for the agency. The ORC co-hosted public hearings on the State Plan during the following dates: May 13, 2014 in Lawton; May 14, 2014 in Tulsa; and May 15, 2014 in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City hearing was held after the ORC quarterly meeting in an effort to increase attendance and promote feedback from stakeholders. Flyers were developed and mailed to increase awareness of the agency’s goals and priorities addressed in the State Plan.

The goals and priorities for FFY15 have been jointly developed with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council. The DSU participates in regular SRC meetings and subcommittee activities. The SRC also collaborates in drafting and revision of agency policy development, and meets regularly with the DSU Director and DVR/DVS Administrators. Finally, revisions to the State Plan were developed jointly, as well as, revision to the specific goals and priorities identified in this section.

The DSU organizational strategic plan is designed for five years. The ORC is committed to be a full partner with the DSU and offers cooperation in an effort to meet the goals set in the State Plan and Strategic Plan.

- The model CSNA process includes six steps:
 1. Defining and establishing CSNA goals;
 2. Developing CSNA plan for information and dissemination;
 3. Gathering the information;
 4. Analyzing the results and developing findings;
 5. Developing the conclusions: Potential action strategies; and,
 6. Informing state plan goals, priorities, and strategies.

- The plan for the next three year statewide assessment is as follows:

Year 1 (FFY14) – The DSU and SRC will complete steps one and two, and initiate step three.

 - Step 1: Defining and establishing CSNA goals. During this phase DSU staff will review available disability data and reports to establish the nature of the potential DVR population within the state as well as identify other agencies and organizations that are resources for information collection. Tables and summaries of relevant report findings will be assembled as a briefing book for use in establishing study goals.
 - Step 2: Developing CSNA plan for information and dissemination. During this phase DSU staff will develop a plan for collecting information, analyzing findings, disseminating results, and informing the state plan. The plan will include the identification of specific data, sources, and methods; data analysis; costs and timeline; and staffing or technical assistance needs.
 - Step 3: Gathering the information. During this phase DSU staff will initiate the collection of data from identified sources and provide a description of the information collection process.
 - Accomplishments:
 - Work and advisory teams were established. Goals were defined.
 - A work plan, timeline and dissemination plan were developed. Possible sources of data were identified including census data, state population estimates; labor and economic data; DVR agency data.
 - Work team initiated data gathering.

Year 2 (FFY15) – The DSU and SRC will complete step three (as described above).

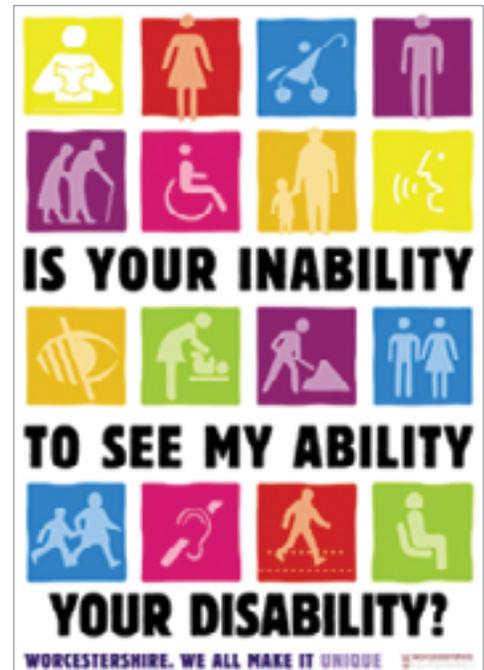
 - Accomplishments:
 - Work team began collection of data from identified sources. Multiple surveys were distributed to stakeholders. Public meetings were held to identify needs of partners such as schools, workforce, CRPs; consumers and the public.
 - Changes to be added to Step 3 due to WIOA:

- Additional plans were developed to include needs of youth and students with disabilities and clients of workforce. These plans include gathering existing data from IDEA/504 reports, existing data from external transition needs studies, data from the workforce development system, and including these topics in the public hearings.

Year 3 (FFY16) – The DSU and SRC will complete:

- Step 4: Analyzing the results and developing findings. Once all the data is collected it will be analyzed and organized by information goal and topic.
- Step 5: Developing the conclusions: Potential action strategies. During this phase, conclusions from work will be developed and potential action strategies generated for each need expressed in findings.
- Step 6: Informing state plan goals, priorities, and strategies. DSU staff will develop recommendations from the CSNA to inform the State Plan.
- Status:

Due to the additional changes to Step 3 due to the WIOA, data collection is still ongoing but nearly complete. Analysis will begin upon completion. Estimated completion date and distribution for the report will be September 30, 2016.



ORC effectively partnered with DSU in the development of the FFY15 State Plan included developing the goals and priorities for the agency. The ORC co-hosted public hearings on the State Plan during the following dates: May 13, 2014 in Lawton; May 14, 2014 in Tulsa; and May 15, 2014 in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City hearing was held after the ORC quarterly meeting in an effort to increase attendance and promote feedback from stakeholders. Flyers were developed and mailed to increase awareness of the agency's goals and priorities addressed in the State Plan.

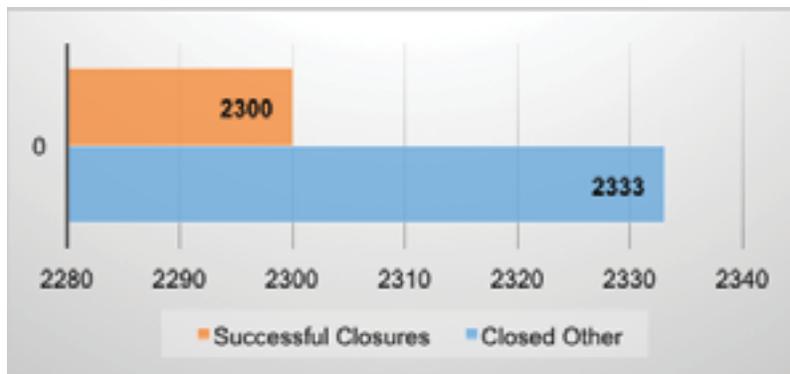
The goals and priorities for FFY15 have been jointly developed with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council. The DSU participates in regular SRC meetings and subcommittee activities. The SRC also collaborates in drafting and revision of agency policy development, and meets regularly with the DSU Director and DVR/DVS Administrators. Finally, revisions to the State Plan were developed jointly, as well as, revision to the specific goals and priorities identified in this section.

The DSU organizational strategic plan is designed for five years. The ORC is committed to be a full partner with the DSU and offers cooperation in an effort to meet the goals set in the State Plan and Strategic Plan.

DSU reported the following FFY15 data to the Commission:

- 2,300 cases had successful closure
- 2,333 cases were closed without employment after receiving services
- 7,181 new applications were received which increased by 8.03%
- 4,731 plans were written in the year which increased by 3.14%
- 16% closed as an applicant (960 applicants)
- 0% closed from delayed/wait list status (0 job seekers)
- 29% closed after eligibility, before services (1,719 job seekers)
- 54% closed after services were initiated (3,155 job seekers)

Successful Closures 2,300 vs. Unsuccessful Closures 2,333



- Average days in application status 33
- Average months in eligibility 2.3
- Average months receiving services 26.7
- Average months in delayed status 3.8

Cost Per Closure Type



- Average cost per successful closure: \$7,068
- Average cost per Closed Other (with IPE): \$3,831
- The average cost per successful closure decreased by 3.38%
- The average cost per unsuccessful closure decreased by 10.33%

For FFY15, DSU ended strong with 254 former SSI/SSDI beneficiaries claiming their piece of the American dream which resulted in \$3,194,831.95 in revenue from SSA. This is the second-highest revenue total in the history of the agency. Hats off to DSU Ticket Coordinators, DSU Benefits Planners and all of the Ticket-to-Work Staff.

FFY15 Standards and Indicators Information:

DSU met Standards and Indicators 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 2.1. They did not meet indicator 1.2, which is the number of closed cases with an employment outcome over the previous year's outcomes. The agency came in with 49.53% and the federal minimum is 55.80%, which had the agency short 33 cases from missing this standard and indicator.

Order of Selection Information:

The DSU agency was not under an Order of Selection for the FY15.

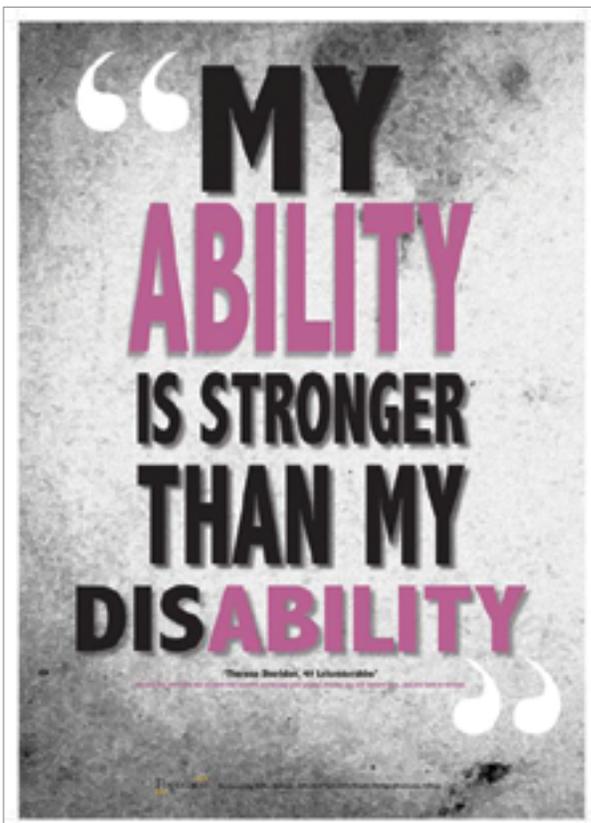
Consumer Satisfaction Survey Key Findings

The Rehabilitation Act requires that the State Rehabilitation Council assess vocational rehabilitation services for effectiveness and consumer satisfaction. Each year the ORC works with DSU on the Consumer Satisfaction Survey.

The May 2015 DVR/DVS Client Satisfaction Survey was returned by 169 out of 1043 clients, for a response rate of 16.2%. This is not enough for a confidence level of 95%, plus or minus a 5% margin of error, which would require 278 responses.

Key Findings:

- The overall valid satisfaction rate for DVR/DVS is 82.4%, a slight drop from the overall satisfaction rate reported in the December 2014 survey (83.2%).
- Overall satisfaction rates for DVR (83.1%) and DVS (80.5%) were similar to each other and the satisfaction rates from the previous survey, but the rate for DVR rose slightly while that for DVS dropped.
- In general, agreement rates for DVS dropped while agreement rates for DVR rose.
- The lowest agreement rates were for Statement #7: "I was referred to other agencies or organizations that might provide additional services." (Current counselor, 59.8%, other staff, 52.9%)



- The highest agreement rates were for statements regarding whether clients felt they were being treated with respect (current counselor, 89.4%; other staff, 89.6%; medical providers, 90.0%).
- Responses to the question regarding unmet needs mostly mentioned needs for equipment, with several stating that there were long delays in receiving promised equipment. A related theme was a lack of communication or action on the part of counselors and other staff.
- Of the 169 respondents, 66 gave comments in the comments section. Positive comments expressed appreciation for specific counselors, as well as appreciation for DSU generally. Negative comments mention a lack of communication and effort on the part of counselors and other staff.

TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Chairpersons – Jacki Millspaugh | DSU Liaison – Kim Osmani

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

- The assigned liaison for this committee was the DSU Transition Coordinator.
- The committee continued participation with the Oklahoma Transition Council, a multi-agency collaboration, for the purpose of promoting enhanced transition outcomes for secondary and post-secondary youth with disabilities. Committee members and ORC staff participated in the planning, development and implementation of the annual statewide Oklahoma Transition Institute. The 2015 OTI statewide meeting had approximately 530 participants and 33 teams.
- This committee is still collaborating with the DSU to assist with the enhancement of a job seeker page on the website. This page would identify: existing job preparation tools, interest inventories, resume templates and guides, job seeking tips, interview tips, budgeting information, and common interview questions to assist the job seeker.
- The ORC partnered with DSU to travel across the state to co-host transitional specialized training events for DSU staff to address issues they are facing in each area of the state. Policy changes were addressed, as well as, finding creative ideas to keep transition aged youth engaged in activities with an employment focus. This is also used as a recruiting tool for future ORC members that may come from the transition population or to serve in the counselor role on the council.
- The committee continues to meet with the DSU staff in the development of a longitudinal study on transition aged youth to review employment outcomes. The committee will review and compare outcomes with demand occupations with the DSU closure job data for transition outcomes. Another long term goal is to compare outcomes with services received to determine which services or combination of services creates the better long term outcomes.



APPENDIX A: Cost Breakdown by County

County	Successful Closures				Average Case Authorization Total			
	DVR		DVS		DVR		DVS	
	15 - 21	Over 21	15 - 21	Over 21	15 - 21	Over 21	15 - 21	Over 21
Adair		4		1		\$599		\$18,977
Alfalfa	2	2		2	\$12,571	\$11,089		\$1,465
Atoka	6	5		2	\$20,362	\$2,466		\$2,722
Beaver		1		1		\$5,698		\$1,374
Beckham	1	5		3	\$3,402	\$4,990		\$5,146
Blaine	1	1			\$40,975	\$918		
Bryan	10	8		6	\$5,762	\$11,907		\$4,764
Caddo	1	7		3	\$24,813	\$6,252		\$34,188
Canadian	10	16	2	4	\$8,579	\$5,452	\$17,287	\$3,211
Carter	5	15		3	\$10,350	\$2,763		\$2,953
Cherokee	2	16	3	4	\$827	\$1,996	\$10,706	\$9,736
Choctaw	6	3		1	\$6,234	\$9,163		\$5,075
Cleveland	27	66	2	11	\$8,391	\$5,106	\$2,884	\$16,124
Coal	8				\$8,631			
Comanche	19	23	1	13	\$12,942	\$4,058	\$4,241	\$4,353
Cotton	1	1		1	\$9,978	\$400		\$4,099
Craig	2	1			\$6,653	\$6,685		
Creek	23	19		5	\$5,938	\$7,518		\$3,097
Custer	6	4		1	\$18,242	\$1,281		\$673
Delaware	2	4	1		\$1,078	\$2,405	\$5,421	
Dewey	1				\$5,413			
Ellis				1				\$1,112
Garfield	12	24		9	\$8,815	\$6,857		\$5,028
Garvin	8	10		3	\$9,833	\$4,916		\$505
Grady	3	6		4	\$14,335	\$5,670		\$5,335
Grant	2	2			\$11,441	\$3,479		
Greer	3	1		1	\$13,861	\$6,898		\$1,518
Harmon	3	2			\$10,185	\$6,043		
Harper				2				\$929
Haskell	13	1			\$8,291			
Hughes	1	8	1		\$12,393	\$5,464	\$3,300	
Jackson	9	10		1	\$6,318	\$4,264		\$7,131
Jefferson	4				\$7,101			
Johnston	2	3		3	\$4,055	\$5,001		\$6,246
Kay	17	22		7	\$4,959	\$5,225		\$4,505
Kingfisher	1	2		2	\$5,192	\$7,269		\$3,991
Kiowa	1	3		1	\$400	\$2,774		\$1,072
Latimer	2	3			\$11,935	\$4,413		

County	Successful Closures				Average Case Authorization Total			
	DVR		DVS		DVR		DVS	
	15 - 21	Over 21	15 - 21	Over 21	15 - 21	Over 21	15 - 21	Over 21
Le Flore	13	13		1	\$5,559	\$3,704		\$5,851
Lincoln	9	9	1		\$10,620	\$5,446	\$2,622	
Logan	6	5			\$9,777	\$6,871		
Love		1				\$5,271		
Major	2	1		1	\$4,585	\$225		\$4,129
Marshall	4	1	1	4	\$5,129	\$4,785	\$7,796	\$2,876
Mayes	4	7	3	1	\$5,839	\$4,959	\$9,241	\$1,429
McClain	6	12	1	5	\$4,359	\$3,156	\$6,158	\$2,225
McCurtain	5	6	1	1	\$10,110	\$4,319	\$48,946	\$4,036
McIntosh	5	3		2	\$2,853	\$1,719		\$4,152
Murray	6	2			\$16,031	\$11,435		
Muskogee	19	35	3	22	\$4,343	\$5,377	\$15,518	\$4,430
Noble	4	2			\$8,436	\$20,023		
Nowata	4				\$9,103			
Okfuskee	4	8			\$5,593	\$6,793		
Oklahoma	138	326	19	44	\$11,537	\$5,978	\$10,762	\$8,023
Okmulgee	11	23		2	\$2,568	\$4,227		\$3,686
Osage	15	2			\$7,633	\$6,191		
Ottawa	3	3	1	4	\$18,900	\$3,406	\$1,110	\$9,836
Pawnee	8	7		2	\$6,897	\$5,419		\$3,178
Payne	10	16		2	\$12,205	\$10,245		\$3,099
Pittsburg	20	31	1	8	\$7,687	\$4,251	\$7,399	\$4,773
Pontotoc	13	13	3	5	\$7,915	\$8,118	\$2,948	\$5,684
Pottawatomie	7	22	1	6	\$24,588	\$4,763	\$3	\$4,676
Pushmataha	7	1			\$8,021	\$3,037		
Roger Mills	2	1			\$5,344	\$4,280		
Rogers	29	12	1	1	\$8,807	\$7,696	\$7,757	\$5,962
Seminole	2	8	1	1	\$3,014	\$7,781		\$1,066
Sequoyah	61	8	2	3	\$3,806	\$3,643	\$7,811	\$7,133
Stephens	3			3	\$23,356			\$6,073
Texas		3				\$11,471		
Tillman				1				\$7,235
Tulsa	128	248	2	45	\$9,646	\$6,899	\$3,256	\$6,730
Wagoner	9	13	2	6	\$9,485	\$4,532	\$43,869	\$2,229
Washington	11	16		5	\$7,136	\$2,486		\$3,542
Washita	3	1	1		\$10,702	\$14,732	\$4,946	
Woods	5	1	1		\$12,458	\$2,093	\$18,914	
Woodward	3	4		1	\$4,462	\$3,224		\$982

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members



From left to right, back row: Tina Spence, Melinda Bunch, Melinda Freundt, Linda Jaco, Ricky DeRennaux, William Ginn, Bill Dunham, Audrey Farnum.

From left to right, front row: Renee Sansom, Katie Woodward, Jack McMahan, Haley George.

Not pictured: Judy Atkins, Jane Ciorba, Joe Cordova, Brenda Fitzgerald, Juan Garcia, Ginger Jagggers, Jean Jones, Sidna Madden, Jacki Millsbaugh, Terrisha Osborn, Kim Osmani.

Judy Atkins

Business Consultant, Galt Foundation
3817 N Santa Fe Ave, Ste 174
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 235-4490
Judy@Galtfoundation.org

Melinda Bunch

DVS Specialist, Department of
Rehabilitation Services
1400 Hobbe Blvd Ste A
Ada, OK 73096-2602
(580) 816-4111
mdobbs@okDSU.gov

Jane Ciorba

CEO, Council for Development
Disabilities d/b/a ABLE
303 E. Tonhawa
Norman, OK 73069
(405) 329-3922
jane@ableok.org

Joe Cordova

Director, Department of
Rehabilitation Services
3535 WN 58th Street, Ste 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4824
(405) 951-3400
jcordova@okDSU.gov

Ricky DeRennaux

President / CEO, Tech-Now Inc.
621 Brookwood Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73139
(405) 640-7606
derennaux@hotmail.com

Bill Dunham

Area Clinic Manager, Amputee
Empowerment Regional Coordinator
Hanger Clinic, Oklahoma Clinics
6052 South Sheridan Road
Tulsa, OK 74145
Mobile: (405) 761-0346
BDunham@Hanger.com

Audrey Farnum

Staff Attorney / Administrative Hearing
Office, Oklahoma Tax Commission
3700 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 319-8507
atfarnum@icloud.com

Melinda Fruendt*

Project Coordinator,
Oklahoma Department of
Rehabilitation Services
3535 N.W. 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 951-3400 Voice/TTY
mfruendt@okdrs.gov

Brenda Fitzgerald

Program Director, Cherokee Nation
DVR Program
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 453-5735
Brenda-fitzgerald@cherokee.org

Juan Garcia

Attorney, Garcia Law Firm
PO Box 26
Clinton, OK 73601
(580) 323-1733
Juan.garcialaw@gmail.com

William Ginn

CAP Director,
Office of Disability Concerns
2712 Villa Prom
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2414
(405) 521-3756 (800) 522-8224
William.Ginn@odc.ok.gov

* Associate council members

Ginger Jaggars

Part C Coordinator / Parent Advising
and Training Specialist, Oklahoma
Parents Center
223 N. Broadway
PO Box 512
Holdenville, OK. 74848
(405) 379-6015
gjaggars@oklahomaparentscenter.org

Jean Jones*

DRS Legislative Information
Representative
3535 N.W. 58th, Suite 500
Oklahoma City 73112-4824
(405) 951-3488
jjones@okdrs.gov

Sidna Madden

Executive Director,
OK State Independent Living Council
3535 NW 58th St, Ste 480
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 951-3581
smadden@oksilc.org

Jack McMahan

Executive Director,
Wilderness Matters, Inc.
1713 Huntington Ave
Nichols Hills, OK 73116
(405) 842-1470
Jack@crossingthechasm.net

Jacki Millspaugh

Director, OK Department of
Mental Health and Substance Abuse
1200 NE 13th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3277
(405) 522-3863
jmillspaugh@odmhsas.org

Terrisha Osborn

VR Specialist, Department of
Rehabilitation
8001 S I-35 Service Road, Ste 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73149
(405) 636-3104
tosborn@okDSU.gov

Kim Osmani*

DRS Transition Coordinator
OKC Career Planning Center
5813 South Robinson
Oklahoma City 73109-8521
(405) 635-2768
kosmani@okdrs.gov

Tina Spence

Coordinator, Special Education
Services, OK State Department of
Education
2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Ste 412
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-4877
Tina.Spence@sde.ok.gov

Katie Woodward

Program Manager, OK Durable
Medical Equipment Reuse Program
3325 N Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 523-4810
Katie.woodward@okstate.edu

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Staff

Renee N. Sansom, MS

Programs Manager, ORC
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
3535 NW 58th St., Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK. 73112-4824
Phone: (405) 951-3579
Fax: (405) 951-3532
renee.sansom@okstate.edu

Linda Jaco, MS

Associate Director and
Director of Sponsored Programs
Department of Wellness –
Oklahoma State University
1514 W. Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-9864
(800) 257-1705 (v/tty)
(405) 744-2487 (fax)
linda.jaco@okstate.edu

Haley George

Administrative Assistant
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
3325 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Office Phone: (405) 523-4807
haley.george@okstate.edu

Dear Legislator,
Statistics that affect Oklahoma. Together, we can do better.

15.5% of Oklahomans have a disability.
70% of people with disabilities and of working age are unemployed; contributing to poverty and isolation.
People with disabilities **WANT** to work!
Accommodations don't have to be expensive – in fact, the average cost is only **\$500**

ADA 25 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act – a landmark piece of legislation that unequivocally improved access to buildings, public services and telecommunications for those with disabilities.

However, 25 years later employment opportunities for Oklahomans with disabilities still fall considerably short of our region!*

Data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) lists Oklahoma as having a 14.1% unemployed prevalence as compared to:

Arkansas: 15.8%	New Mexico: 13.8%	Missouri: 12.9%
Kansas: 10.6%	Texas: 10.4%	Colorado: 9.4%

* 2013 Disability Status Report: United States | <http://www.disabilitystatistics.org>

With this small card, we want to introduce, or re-introduce you to The **Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC)**. ORC's mission, as a partner with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), is to assure the services of DRS are of high quality leading to employment of individuals with disabilities. In FY2014, DRS successfully placed 2,200 clients in employment. Additionally, ORC facilitates consumer education and empowerment.

For more information, please review our 2014 Annual Report online @ <http://www.ok.gov/orc> or contact us. Thank you.



Renee Sansom, Program Manager
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 951-3579
renee.sansom@okstate.edu

Text of Legislative Primer

Front Side of Card

Dear Legislator,
Statistics that affect Oklahoma. Together, we can do better.

15.5% of Oklahomans have a disability. 70% of people with disabilities and of working age are unemployed, contributing to poverty and isolation. People with disabilities WANT to work!
Accommodations don't have to be expensive – in fact, the average cost is only \$500.

Back Side of Card

(graphic – ADA 25th Anniv.) 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act – a landmark piece of legislation that unequivocally improved access to buildings, public services and telecommunications for those with disabilities.

However, 25 years later employment opportunities for Oklahomans with disabilities still fall considerably short of our region!*

With this small card, we want to introduce, or re-introduce you to The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC). ORC's mission, as a partner with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DSU), is to assure the services of DSU are of high quality leading to employment of individuals with disabilities. In FY2014, DSU successfully placed 2,200 clients in employment. Additionally, ORC facilitates consumer education and empowerment.

For more information, please review our 2014 Annual Report online @ <http://orc.okstate.edu> or contact us. Thank you.

Callout Box:

Data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) lists Oklahoma as having a 14.1% unemployed prevalence as compared to:

Arkansas: 15.8%	New Mexico: 13.8%	Missouri: 12.9%
Kansas: 10.6%	Texas: 10.4%	Colorado: 9.4%

* 2013 Disability Status Report: United States | <http://www.disabilitystatistics.org>



Renee Sansom, Program Manager
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 951-3579
renee.sansom@okstate.edu

APPENDIX D: Support Letters



3535 NW 58th Street, Ste. 500
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

December 1, 2015

To: Governor Mary Fallin and RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck

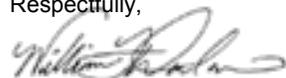
On behalf of the members of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC), we proudly present you with this 2015 Annual Report. It is the intent of the Council to have this annual report be a summary of the activities undertaken by the ORC during the past year. Council members are extremely proud to work with and advise the Department of Rehabilitation Services and to represent the voice of the consumer.

During FFY15, Department of Rehabilitation Services received 7,181 new applications; 4,731 plans were written in FFY15; and 2,300 people completed Individual Plans for Employment and were successfully rehabilitated. The ORC would like to congratulate Oklahoma's Department of Rehabilitation Services (which includes both Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services) in meeting the three primary standards and indicators for the reporting period. These accomplishments would not have been achieved without the dedication of the entire DRS staff who worked diligently to provide quality services that enhance Oklahomans with disabilities excellent career opportunities.

The ORC's three standing committees (Planning & Program Evaluation, Policy & Legislative and Transition & Employment) continue to work with DRS on major program issues as has been expressed in this report. Several members of the ORC continue to grow their understanding of disability concerns by attending national training and education opportunities which increases the knowledge, skills, and abilities to improve the overall effectiveness of the Council. This effectiveness was brought to bear over the past few years, throughout Oklahoma and while in Washington D.C., when the Council in partnership with DRS actively provided critical information and support to Oklahoma's federal legislators. ORC and DRS provided them with the concerns and policy options related to the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act and advised on issues related to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The council continues to focus on understanding the law and appreciates all the support DRS is providing to ensure we are more aware how this law will impact consumers.

It has been an honor and privilege to once again serve as Chair of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council and I am excited to continue to serve in this capacity through 2016. The ORC members are a diverse and dedicated group who take their advocacy role seriously and are honored to partner and provide leadership to the Department Rehabilitation Services and its consumers.

Respectfully,



Bill Dunham, Chairman

Phone: 405-951-3579

Toll Free: 1-800-569-7974

Fax: 405-951-3532

November 16, 2015

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Attention: Renee Sansom

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members:

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (ODRS) is excited to work in partnership with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC). The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council share a strong commitment to assist Oklahomans with disabilities become independent through employment opportunities.

The Agency appreciates the continuous guidance and support the Council provides on key issues. We also appreciate their advocacy on state and national policy issues. The council is a critical partner. I also appreciate the council's role at a national level, providing leadership and partnership with councils across the country. This will be a key role as new national legislation develops that affects at the state level.

As the Agency faces new challenge, the ODRS will continue striving towards our mission to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to achieve productivity, independence and an enriched quality of life.

Sincerely,



Joe D. Cordova, Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

November 4, 2015

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Attention: Renee Sansom

Dear Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members:

As my second year as VS Division Administrator comes to a close, I can truly say it has been my pleasure to work with the members of the **Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council**. The partnership between the ORC and the Division of Visual Services is greatly valued and working together, our efforts to enhance the lives of blind and visually impaired Oklahomans will continue to move service provision to new highs. I have had experience with other state Rehabilitation Councils and I continue to be impressed with the ORC's transparency and commitment to following the provisions of Rehabilitation Act: ORC is setting the standard for other Rehabilitation Councils around the country. A spirit of positive collaboration has always been present at the meetings that I have attended and private agendas, by members, are left at the door!

The ORC involvement in projects such as Disability Awareness Day and various activities involving youth in transition services, along with an unwavering commitment to expand the public awareness of the many services available to citizens through participation in a vocational rehabilitation plan, works toward the betterment of people with disabilities. The ORC partners with OKDRS to continuously improve relations with consumers as well as other groups that provide services to Oklahomans with disabilities.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the hard work OCR does in educational outreach, to build good relationships with our Congressional Representatives and Senators, resulting in improved lines of communication between DRS and our Washington representatives. It is essential that all Oklahomans understand the impact quality vocational rehabilitation services can have on assisting blind and visually impaired persons find quality employment. I look forward to a continued productive partnership between the Division of Visual Services and the ORC, as we work together to assist thousands of Oklahomans to live a life of independence, quality employment and community involvement.

Sincerely,



Douglas C. Boone, Administrator, Division of Visual Services

October 6, 2015

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, Ok 73112

Dear Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Members,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Oklahoma Rehabilitation (ORC) for its outstanding collaboration, and partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OKDRS). The State Of Oklahoma truly has one of the best SRC's in the nation.

During the past year ORC has been actively involved in participating in our Policy and Re-engineering Committee, which is improving and streamlining OKDRS Policy and Procedures. The ORC is involved in many activities including, Client Success Stories, Comprehensive Needs Assessment and development of the State Plan for OKDRS.

The ORC continues to be involved in projects such as Disability Awareness Day and various activities involving youth in transition services and activities. The ORC partners with OKDRS to continuously improve relations with consumers as well as, other groups that provide services to Oklahomans with Disabilities.

I would like to thank Renee Sansom for her work and increased involvement with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. I look forward to working with the ORC next year and many years to come.

Sincerely,



Mark Kinnison, Division Administrator
Vocational Rehabilitation

ORC
OKLAHOMA
REHABILITATION
COUNCIL

3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 951-3579
www.orc.okstate.edu