



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services



Commissioners
Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery,
Kelsey Lee and Kevin Wallace

Regular Meeting
and Video Conferencing

3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK

August 13, 2025

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma
Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting
August 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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

Meeting Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601377686>
Phone: 669-254-5252; Webinar ID: 160 137 7686

Public Comment: To sign up to speak virtually, please contact the Assistant to the Commission no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 12th at (405) 951-3472 or Kathleen.Arrieta@okdrs.gov. If speaking 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

Pg. 7

6. Chief Financial Officer's Report

Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer

- a) Financial Status Reports for FY 2025 as of June 30, 2025 Pg. 10
- b) FY 2027 Budget Request
 - FY 2027 Budget Request Executive Summary Pg. 17
 - FY 2027 Budget Request Summary Pg. 18
 - FY 2027 Budget Request Operations Funding Changes Pg. 19
- c) Presentation of FY 2026 Expenditure Limits and FTE Budgetary Limit. Pg. 22
- d) Discussion and possible action to approve the FY 2026 Expenditure Limits and FTE Budgetary Limit.

7. Human Resources Report

Pg. 24

Tom Patt, HR Director

- a) Personnel Activity report for June and July, 2025
- b) Introduction of new staff
- c) Possible discussion

8. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Report

Pg. 35

Mark Kinnison, Division Administrator

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

9. Update on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Reimbursement Program.

Pg. 38

Jason Price, Program Manager

- a) Possible discussion

10. Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Transition Report

Pg. 44

Renee N. Sansom Briscoe, Transition Coordinator

- a) Report includes Pre-ETS, staffing, contracts, programs, staff, and summer program updates.
- b) Possible discussion

11. Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC)

Pg. 53

Carolina Colclasure, Program Manager

- a) Report includes committee updates.
- b) Possible discussion

- 12. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for Deaf (OSD)** Pg. 56
Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent
a) Donation Report for June and July 2025
b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.
- 13. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB)** Pg. 59
Brent Pearce, Superintendent
a) Donation Report for June and July 2025
b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.
- 14. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH)** Pg. 62
Kevin Treese, Program Manager III, SBVI
a) Donation Reports for June and July 2025
b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.
- 15. Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services 2026 Meeting Schedule.** Pg. 65
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule.
- 16. Review of the June 4, 2025 Commission Special Meeting Minutes** Pg. 67
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.
- 17. Review of the June 11, 2025 Commission Regular Meeting Minutes** Pg. 70
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.
- 18. Review of the June 20, 2025 Commission Special Meeting Minutes** Pg. 77
Theresa Flannery, Chair
a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.

19. 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.

20. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss the Performance Review of the Executive Director

Theresa Flannery, Chair

- a) Discussion and possible vote to enter Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussing the performance review of the Executive Director.
- b) Vote to reconvene into Regular Session.
- c) Discussion and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

21. Adjournment

Theresa Flannery, Chair

- a) Discussion and possible action

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

Next Commission meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025



Executive Director's Report

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
August 13, 2025

Remembrance

Sandy Keesee of Pryor, OK, passed away suddenly on July 9, 2025, age 51. Sandy was a Programs Manager for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in counseling. She dedicated her career and life to serving others.

Executive

June

16-18 – DRS Executive Team Retreat

20 – Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth Meeting; Commission for Rehabilitation Services – Special Meeting.

26 – VR Technical Assistance Meeting

30 – Deaf/Blind Awareness Event.

July

2-3 – Annual Leave

4 – Independence Day

8 – VR/SBVI New Employee Academy presentation

9 – DRS Executive Team meeting

10 – Workforce Partnership Meeting; Workforce Commission meeting

14 – Meet/Greet Oklahoma School for the Blind Executive Team Retreat

17 – Fruendt's Front Town Hall meeting

18-23 – Council of State Governments – Southern Legislative Conference – Birmingham, AL

25 – Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development meeting

August

5 – Welcome teachers/staff back to school at Oklahoma School for the Blind

6 - Welcome teachers/staff back to school at Oklahoma School for the Deaf; Fruendt's Front Town Hall at OSD

13 – Commission for Rehabilitation Services meeting; DRS Executive Team meeting

Process Improvement (PI) – Lyuda Polyun
Federal Report

AWARE

- Ongoing import of Pre-Employment Transition Services from the Pre-Vocational Rehabilitation Portal into AWARE, and soon to finalize June data in preparation for year-end RSA reporting.

- Data cleanup in AWARE, including RSA-911 error correction and use of QA Advisor for identifying and resolving critical 911 issues.
- Worked with RSA and OESC on importing missing wage records to support post-exit wage calculations for the employment related Common Performance Measures.
- Assisting the QA Unit in documenting AWARE processes related to Pre-ETS, in support of the Corrective Action Plan and development of internal controls documentation.
- Collaborating with the data team to define reporting criteria for key legislative and ORC-required reports.

Case Review

- The Quality Assurance team performed a comprehensive study of pre-ETS transition services in order to evaluate DRS internal policy and practices for students who need services in order to gain employment skills.
 - Consultations held with AWARE team, Transition Coordinator, & OU Vendor
 - An instrument was developed for both internal pre-ETS service provision and one for those students who are potentially eligible prior to applying for DRS services.

Program Standards, Statistical Research, Data Dashboards

- The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped report is complete, has passed accessibility, and is in the final review stages.
- Needs Assessment Update: Compiling results in the Findings sections by the mandated topic areas and working on the Executive Summary.
- Data collection has begun for the Legislative Map.

Power Business Intelligence (BI)

- Finishing up testing on new reports requested by the AWARE Team.
- Continue to work on reports still in Tableau we are needing moved to Power BI.

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



Chief Financial Officer's Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 2025

Agency Summary						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	97,919,808.00	48.3%	84,811,733.30	86.6%	11,938,179.43	98.8%
Travel	1,778,060.00	0.9%	1,561,628.17	87.8%	20,277.84	89.0%
General Operating	31,782,135.00	15.7%	17,435,172.16	54.9%	11,342,126.26	90.5%
Office Furniture & Equipment	2,120,654.00	1.0%	749,017.47	35.3%	784,223.82	72.3%
Client / General Assistance	57,656,079.00	28.5%	34,104,465.66	59.2%	19,148,451.66	92.4%
Indirect Cost	11,367,821.00	5.6%	10,407,272.31	91.6%	960,548.69	100.0%
Total	202,624,557.00	100.0%	149,069,289.07	73.6%	44,193,807.70	95.4%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 2025

All Programs						
Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	31,331,077.00	31.8%	26,408,911.68	84.3%	4,783,621.30	99.6%
Travel	1,305,400.00	1.3%	1,207,259.46	92.5%	165.00	92.5%
General Operating	11,761,715.00	11.9%	7,519,970.04	63.9%	3,748,231.38	95.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	972,614.00	1.0%	450,127.14	46.3%	318,130.73	79.0%
Client / General Assistance	48,471,079.00	49.2%	27,167,154.43	56.0%	17,077,860.02	91.3%
Indirect Cost	4,691,641.00	4.8%	4,309,513.30	91.9%	382,127.70	100.0%
Total	98,533,526.00	100.0%	67,062,936.05	68.1%	26,310,136.13	94.8%
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	28,555,136.00	30.9%	23,876,647.86	83.6%	4,553,748.52	99.6%
Travel	1,279,400.00	1.4%	1,173,197.29	91.7%	165.00	91.7%
General Operating	9,730,212.00	10.5%	6,790,791.35	69.8%	2,532,810.79	95.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	734,708.00	0.8%	310,407.15	42.2%	317,829.78	85.5%
Client / General Assistance	47,709,667.00	51.7%	26,650,545.31	55.9%	16,889,308.42	91.3%
Indirect Cost	4,358,379.00	4.7%	4,003,286.89	91.9%	355,092.11	100.0%
Total	92,367,502.00	100.0%	62,804,875.85	68.0%	24,648,954.62	94.7%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 2025

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,516,825.00	71.6%	7,083,468.25	94.2%	307,311.84	98.3%
Travel	68,200.00	0.6%	50,754.62	74.4%	300.00	74.9%
General Operating	1,685,548.00	16.1%	1,075,670.85	63.8%	478,553.16	92.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	396,861.00	3.8%	127,218.81	32.1%	165,446.79	73.7%
Client / General Assistance	53,000.00	0.5%	27,286.41	51.5%	0.00	51.5%
Indirect Cost	775,664.00	7.4%	757,210.30	97.6%	18,453.70	100.0%
Total	10,496,098.00	100.0%	9,121,609.24	86.9%	970,065.49	96.1%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 2025

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,421,685.00	40.8%	7,728,142.77	82.0%	1,663,777.58	99.7%
Travel	220,700.00	1.0%	194,376.40	88.1%	334.09	88.2%
General Operating	11,240,363.00	48.7%	3,764,101.20	33.5%	5,651,101.43	83.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	628,419.00	2.7%	145,540.62	23.2%	300,646.30	71.0%
Client / General Assistance	581,000.00	2.5%	213,460.46	36.7%	216,156.00	73.9%
Indirect Cost	995,725.00	4.3%	875,517.21	87.9%	120,207.79	100.0%
Total	23,087,892.00	100.0%	12,921,138.66	56.0%	7,952,223.19	90.4%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 2025

All Programs						
Disability Determination Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	40,421,259.00	69.5%	35,695,302.10	88.3%	3,885,902.58	97.9%
Travel	69,500.00	0.1%	26,824.67	38.6%	19,478.75	66.6%
General Operating	4,196,880.00	7.2%	3,073,999.93	73.2%	874,563.01	94.1%
Office Furniture & Equipment	43,059.00	0.1%	7,625.20	17.7%	0.00	17.7%
Client / General Assistance	8,551,000.00	14.7%	6,696,564.36	78.3%	1,854,435.64	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,898,302.00	8.4%	4,459,114.96	91.0%	439,187.04	100.0%
Total	58,180,000.00	100.0%	49,959,431.22	85.9%	7,073,567.02	98.0%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 2025

All Programs DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,228,962.00	74.9%	7,895,908.50	85.6%	1,297,566.13	99.6%
Travel	114,260.00	0.9%	82,413.02	72.1%	0.00	72.1%
General Operating	2,897,629.00	23.5%	2,001,430.14	69.1%	589,677.28	89.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	79,701.00	0.6%	18,505.70	23.2%	0.00	23.2%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	6,489.00	0.1%	5,916.53	91.2%	572.47	100.0%
Total	12,327,041.00	100.0%	10,004,173.89	81.2%	1,887,815.88	96.5%

Department of Rehabilitation Services

Financial Status Report FY 25

As of June 30, 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

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISSUE:

Review of the FY 2027 Budget Request

BACKGROUND:

The DRS Director and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed funding change requests and justifications for the FY 2027 Budget Request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests Commission review and recommendations for the FY 2027 Budget Request.

BUDGET IMPACT:

FY 2027 Operations Funding Changes

Description	State	Federal	Total	FTE
DVR/DSBVI	\$3,000,000	\$9,988,427	\$12,988,427	0.0
OSB	\$617,000	\$0	\$617,000	0.0
OSD	\$794,000	\$0	\$794,000	0.0
TOTAL	\$4,411,000	\$9,988,427	\$14,399,427	0.0

Department of Rehabilitation Services

FY 2027 Budget Request						
Agency Priority	Program	Funding Purpose	State Appropriated Funding	Federal Funding	Total Funding	Requested FTE
1	DVR / DSBVI	Maintain necessary state match and maintenance of effort funding associated with Title I federal funds	\$3,000,000	\$9,988,427	\$12,988,427	0.0
2	OSB	Annual maintenance request	\$617,000	\$0	\$617,000	0.0
2	OSD	Annual maintenance request	\$794,000	\$0	\$794,000	0.0
Total FY 2027 Budget Request			\$4,411,000	\$9,988,427	\$14,399,427	\$0

FY 2027 Operations Funding Change Requests

Agency Priority:	1
Program Description:	Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Requested FTE:	0.0
State Appropriations:	\$3,000,000
Funding Description:	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose:	Maintain Necessary State Match and Maintenance of Effort Funding Associated with Title I Federal Funds

Increased funding maximizes services to Oklahomans with disabilities, enhancing their opportunity to become self-sufficient through employment and becoming independent in their homes and communities. This means more Oklahomans can terminate their dependence on state and federal programs and move towards becoming taxpayers. This funding increase will positively impact the stability of the Oklahoma economy. The ratio of funding available is \$4 federal dollars to every \$1 dollar of state matching funds. Funding this request will allow DRS to fully match all the federal funds available to the State of Oklahoma and keeps DRS in a position to put disabled Oklahomans on a path to independence through employment.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Grant is a formula grant and adjusts for annual economic growth. The SFY-26 match request was not provided and Oklahoma will forfeit \$5,934,674 in allocated but unmatched funding from the FFY-25 grant. The match request to fully meet the federal allocation for the SFY-27 grant year is an additional \$3,000,000. This will allow Oklahoma to match an additional \$10 million dollars in federal grant proceeds to serve disabled citizens. The requested match increase will allow DRS to fund all obligations associated with the Vocational Rehabilitation Federal Grants awarded to the State of Oklahoma. Without the increase Oklahoma will face a \$1,393,787 Maintenance of Effort penalty and face the certainty of forfeiting additional funds from the FFY-27 grant. Not providing this funding will cause the State of Oklahoma to forfeit federal funds and severely reduce the services available to disabled Oklahomans that want to return to work.

DRS continues to work with other state agencies to coordinate services to common participants and to improve efficiencies. The Agency is an active participant in the Oklahoma Workforce System as well as the Governor's Council on Workforce. The Workforce and Opportunity Improvement Act, guiding federal regulation for the Vocational Rehabilitation program, requires DRS to participate with 19 different programs across the State to better prepare individuals for successful employment outcomes. Providing this necessary funding would allow for full access to available funds to continue to serve the existing clients and expand services to better reach underserved populations.

Agency Priority:	2
Program Description:	Oklahoma School for the Blind
Requested FTE:	0.0
State Appropriations:	\$617,000
Funding Description:	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose:	Annual Maintenance Request

The Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) in Muskogee provides effective education options for children with all levels of blindness or visual impairments. The goals of the school are to provide an environment that maximizes the learning opportunities for children with disabilities, certify their learning in accordance with State standards and provide a solid foundation of knowledge that the students can lean on well into adulthood. OSB also serves as a resource center to complement the spectrum of services provided within common education for the State of Oklahoma. Communication and literacy are the two most crucial components for learning. OSB provides an education tailored to the needs of the student. Students learn to be literate through braille and experience different levels of communication technology that establish a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. OSB is 100% state appropriated. They do not receive funding from local ad valorem taxes or the State Department of Education funding formula.

In past years the school received funding to keep up with the teacher pay raises passed by the legislature. HB 1087 expanded the years of service on the Teacher Salary Schedule. However, no funding was provided to pay for the regular or expanded salary schedule increases. Support for the schools has been forthcoming and appreciated in previous years. CPI operations maintenance funding keeps operating budgets economically current and able to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. The CPI request allows for incremental economic adjustments to the school's funding that would not otherwise be available.

As a residential facility, OSB has the same budgetary challenges as all the other local school districts in regard to the rising cost of food, fuel and utilities, but with the additional challenge of operating a residential facility. The Oklahoma Constitution mandates that the State provide for and support the School for the Blind. To remain current, the operations maintenance appropriation request is based on this most recent increase of 2.9% for SFY-27 combined with the SFY-26 unfunded request of 3.4%. The result is an increase of \$617,000 dollar budget request for the School for the Blind. This would allow for economic adjustments to the school's funding that are not otherwise available.

Agency Priority:	3
Program Description:	Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Requested FTE:	0.0
State Appropriations:	\$794,000
Funding Description:	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose:	Annual Maintenance Request

The Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) in Sulphur provides effective education options for children with all levels of deaf or hard of hearing impairments. The goals of the school are to provide an environment that maximizes the learning opportunities for children with disabilities, certify their learning in accordance with State standards and provide a solid foundation of knowledge that the students can lean on well into adulthood. OSD also serves as a resource center to complement the spectrum of services provided within common education for the State of Oklahoma. Communication and literacy are the two most crucial components for learning. OSD provides an education tailored to the needs of the student. Students learn and communicate using sign language and experience different levels of communication technology that establish a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. OSD is 100% state appropriated. They do not receive funding from local ad valorem taxes or the State Department of Education funding formula.

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Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

Executive Summary

ISSUE:

Staff requests approval of the FY 2026 Expenditure Limits and FTE Budgetary Limit

BACKGROUND:

The FY 2026 Budget Request was approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services and submitted to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. The Governor of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Legislature considered this request for appropriations. DRS's FY 2026 state appropriations increased \$150,000, or .36% from the FY 2025 base. Total DRS State Appropriations for FY 2026 are \$42,402,951.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the following:

FY 2026 Expenditure Limits

DVR/DSBVI	\$108,000,000
OSB	15,000,000
OSD	25,000,000
DDS	62,000,000
Support Services	<u>14,000,000</u>
DRS Total	\$224,000,000

FTE Budgetary Limit

The legislature did not impose an FTE limit for the agency. However, a budgeted FTE limit is required in order to comply with other requirements imposed on the agency. The budgetary limit for FY 2026 shall be set at 1,255.0 FTE.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Allow spending levels up to limits stated above.

Budget Impact Reviewed by:



Date: June 2, 2025



Human Resources Report

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 8 vacant positions filled / 59 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
EXEC	Public Information Manager / 0587	04/21/2025	EXEC	05/19/2025	Continuous	25-103	Currently Open	
FSD	Accountant / 0013	05/15/2025	FSD	06/19/2025	07/09/2025	25-117	Currently Open	
MSD	Human Resources Management Spec / 1138	10/02/2024	MSD	05/30/2025	Continuous	25-113	Currently Open	
MSD	Business Analyst / 1083	07/12/2024	MSD	05/22/2025	06/11/2025	25-106	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Assistant / 1068	03/31/2025	MSD	05/22/2025	06/11/2025	25-108	Currently Open	
MSD	Human Resources Management Spec / 0893	12/02/2022	MSD	04/25/2025	Continuous	25-087	Currently Open	
OSB	Teacher / 0531	08/1/2020	OSB	06/04/2025	06/10/2025	25-115	In Selection Process	
OSB	Teacher / 0426	08/01/2025	OSB	06/04/2025	Continuous	25-116	Currently Open	
OSB	Teacher / 0546	07/31/2025	OSB	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-100	Currently Open	
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	School Principal / 0537	01/01/2025	OSB	01/08/2025	Continuous	25-060	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0712	07/01/2025	OSD	05/07/2025	Continuous	25-097	Currently Open	
OSD	Construction/Maintenance Technician / 0245	05/12/2025	OSD	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-104	Currently Open	
OSD	Fire Prevention & Security Officer / 0733	03/23/2025	OSD	04/07/2025	Continuous	25-081	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Specialist / 0261	08/01/2024	OSD	02/24/2025	Continuous	25-071	Currently Open	
OSD	Counselor / 1028	11/13/2024	OSD	01/24/2025	Continuous	25-062	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Classroom) / 0648, 0525, 0111	11/01/2023 01/01/2025 03/01/2025	OSD	12/02/2024	Continuous	25-055	Currently Open	
OSD	Early Development Specialist / 1496	07/31/2024	OSD	09/19/2024	Continuous	25-036	Currently Open	
OSD	School Counselor / 1488	10/06/2022	OSD	07/15/2024	Continuous	25-007	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher (Vocational) / 0448	08/01/2010	OSD	06/28/2024	Continuous	24-107	Currently Open	
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	Sign Language Specialist, 2308 / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Dorm) / 0746, 0824, 0778	09/08/2024 10/01/2024 12/31/2024	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Ryan Baldiviez	06/11/2025
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0890	08/01/2021	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0500	01/04/2017	VR86 – Ada	05/07/2025	Continuous	25-091	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Field Representative / 0786	08/31/2024	VR – TBD	05/01/2025	Continuous	25-093	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0703	06/06/2022	VR23 – OKC	05/05/2025	Continuous	25-094	Currently Open	
VR	Business Services Liaison / 0958	12/19/2016	VR47 – OKC	05/06/2025	Continuous	25-095	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1050	04/28/2025	VR66 – Tulsa	05/06/2025	Continuous	25-096	Currently Open	
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0925	05/31/2023	VR86 – Ada	05/09/2025	Continuous	25-098	Currently Open	
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0270	11/30/2013	VR12 – Lawton	05/12/2025	Continuous	25-099	Currently Open	
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0165	03/01/2011	VR13 – McAlester	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-101	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0056	06/12/2025	VR08 – Enid	05/14/2025	Continuous	25-102	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0671	05/12/2025	VR77 – Miami	05/22/2025	Continuous	25-111	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	Kelby Gonzalez	06/02/2025
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0472	04/15/2025	VR15 – MWC	04/01/2025	Continuous	25-079	Angela Rollo	06/01/2025
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0279	11/05/2024	VR47 – OKC	04/07/2025	04/11/2025	25-080	Savanna Bullard	06/16/2025
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0659	11/30/2024	VR38 – Okmulgee	01/27/2025	Continuous	25-065	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	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0366	09/05/2024	VR31 – OKC	09/16/2024	Continuous	25-032	Currently Open
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0034	04/30/2023	VR23 – OKC	06/02/2025	Continuous	25-109	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, 0325, 0557	10/31/2022 01/12/2024 02/28/2025	VR80 – Tulsa	11/03/2022	Continuous	23-037	Rachel Rozanski Jason Rogers 06/02/2025
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0567	09/01/2020	VR67 – Tulsa	11/01/2023	Continuous	21-028.1	Currently Open
SBVI	Mechanical Systems Technician / 0560	08/11/2017	SBVI33 – OKC	06/03/2025	Continuous	25-114	Currently Open
SBVI	Business Services Liaison / 0306	11/30/2024	SBVI59 – Enid	05/02/2025	Continuous	25-092	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0038	05/12/2011	SBVI90 – OKC	05/19/2025	Continuous	25-105	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0754	10/01/2018	SBVI – TBD	05/23/2025	Continuous	25-107	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 1075	07/11/2020	SBVI33 – OKC	05/23/2025	Continuous	25-110	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0745	02/15/2025	SBVI62 – Muskogee	03/07/2025	Continuous	25-074	London Peterson 06/16/2025
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0563	04/01/2017	TBD	10/07/2024	Continuous	25-042	Calvin Brown 06/16/2025
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0582	06/28/2024	SBVI91 – Tulsa	05/28/2025	Continuous	25-017	Currently Open

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 6
<i>As of June 30, 2025</i>

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Resignation = 1

1 = 3 years, 10 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Resignation = 1

1 = 16 years 9 months

Retirement = 1

1 = 24 years 4 months

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Resignation = 1

1 = 12 years 9 months

Retirement = 2

1 = 44 years

1 = 31 years 1 month

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2025

FTE as of June 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	77.00	6.00	0.00	83.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	238.0	210.00	24.00	(1.00)	233.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	115.0	103.00	6.00	(2.00)	107.00
VR/SBVI-DP	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	100.5	97.00	6.00	0.00	103.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	134.0	112.00	17.00	(1.00)	128.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	676.80	603.00	59.00	(4.00)	658.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	342.40	314.00	0.00	(314.00)	314.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	1019.20	917.00	59.00	(318.00)	972.00

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

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2025

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 7 vacant positions filled / 60 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
EXEC	Public Information Officer / 1079	07/01/2025	EXEC	07/28/2025	08/14/2025	26-005	Currently Open	
EXEC	Public Information Manager / 0587	04/21/2025	EXEC	05/19/2025	Continuous	25-103	Brett Jones	07/01/2025
FSD	Accountant / 0013	05/15/2025	FSD	06/19/2025	07/09/2025	25-117	Currently Open	
MSD	Human Resources Management Spec / 1138	10/02/2024	MSD	05/30/2025	Continuous	25-113	Gail Gilson	07/23/2025
MSD	Business Analyst / 1083	07/12/2024	MSD	05/22/2025	06/11/2025	25-106	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Assistant / 1068	03/31/2025	MSD	05/22/2025	06/11/2025	25-108	Currently Open	
MSD	Human Resources Management Spec / 0893	12/02/2022	MSD	04/25/2025	Continuous	25-087	Mykal Kephart	07/04/2025
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0237, 0298, 0795	06/12/2025 08/12/2025 07/31/2025	OSD	07/08/2025	Continuous	26-002	Currently Open In Selection Process	
OSB	Teacher / 0531	08/1/2020	OSB	06/04/2025	06/10/2025	25-115	Currently Open	
OSB	Teacher / 0426	08/01/2025	OSB	06/04/2025	Continuous	25-116	Currently Open	
OSB	Teacher / 0546	07/31/2025	OSB	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-100	Currently Open	
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	Timothy Stevens	07/01/2025
OSB	School Principal / 0537	01/01/2025	OSB	01/08/2025	Continuous	25-060	Brian Womack	07/01/2025
OSD	Speech Language Pathologist / P107653	NEW PIN	OSD	07/17/2025	Continuous	26-003	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0712	07/01/2025	OSD	05/07/2025	Continuous	25-097	Currently Open	
OSD	Construction/Maintenance Technician / 0245	05/12/2025	OSD	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-104	Currently Open	
OSD	Fire Prevention & Security Officer / 0733	03/23/2025	OSD	04/07/2025	Continuous	25-081	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Specialist / 0261	08/01/2024	OSD	02/24/2025	Continuous	25-071	Currently Open	
OSD	Counselor / 1028	11/13/2024	OSD	01/24/2025	Continuous	25-062	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Classroom) / 0648, 0525, 0111	11/01/2023 01/01/2025 03/01/2025	OSD	12/02/2024	Continuous	25-055	Currently Open	
OSD	Early Development Specialist / 1496	07/31/2024	OSD	09/19/2024	Continuous	25-036	Currently Open	

OSD	School Counselor / 1488	10/06/2022	OSD	07/15/2024	Continuous	25-007	Currently Open
OSD	Teacher (Vocational) / 0448	08/01/2010	OSD	06/28/2024	Continuous	24-107	Currently Open
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	Sign Language Specialist, 2308 / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Dorm) / 0824, 0778, 0028	10/01/2024 12/31/2024 05/28/2025	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Currently Open
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0890	08/01/2021	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Currently Open
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0769	07/07/2025	VR26 – Claremore	07/14/2025	Continuous	26-001	Currently Open
VR	Programs Manager / 0674	07/09/2025	VR – TBD	07/21/2025	Continuous	26-004	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0500	01/04/2017	VR86 – Ada	05/07/2025	Continuous	25-091	Currently Open
VR	Programs Field Representative / 0786	08/31/2024	VR – TBD	05/01/2025	Continuous	25-093	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0703	06/06/2022	VR23 – OKC	05/05/2025	Continuous	25-094	Currently Open
VR	Business Services Liaison / 0958	12/19/2016	VR47 – OKC	05/06/2025	Continuous	25-095	Currently Open
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1050	04/28/2025	VR66 – Tulsa	05/06/2025	Continuous	25-096	Lana Evans 07/07/2025
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0925	05/31/2023	VR86 – Ada	05/09/2025	Continuous	25-098	Currently Open
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0270	11/30/2013	VR12 – Lawton	05/12/2025	Continuous	25-099	Currently Open
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0165	03/01/2011	VR13 – McAlester	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-101	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0056	06/12/2025	VR08 – Enid	05/14/2025	Continuous	25-102	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0671	05/12/2025	VR77 – Miami	05/22/2025	Continuous	25-111	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	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0659	11/30/2024	VR38 – Okmulgee	01/27/2025	Continuous	25-065	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	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0366	09/05/2024	VR31 – OKC	09/16/2024	Continuous	25-032	Currently Open
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0034	04/30/2023	VR23 – OKC	06/02/2025	Continuous	25-109	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 / 0557	02/28/2025	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	Mechanical Systems Technician / 0560	08/11/2017	SBVI33 – OKC	06/03/2025	Continuous	25-114	Currently Open
SBVI	Business Services Liaison / 0306	11/30/2024	SBVI59 – Enid	05/02/2025	Continuous	25-092	Alisha Norwood 07/01/2025
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0038	05/12/2011	SBVI90 – OKC	05/19/2025	Continuous	25-105	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0754	10/01/2018	SBVI – TBD	05/23/2025	Continuous	25-107	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 1075	07/11/2020	SBVI33 – OKC	05/23/2025	Continuous	25-110	Currently Open
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0582	06/28/2024	SBVI91 – Tulsa	05/28/2025	Continuous	25-017	Currently Open

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 11
<i>As of July 31, 2025</i>

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Death = 1

1 = 18 years 9 months

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Resignation = 2

1 = 2 years 11 months

1 = 3 months

Retirement = 2

1 = 30 years 11 months

1 = 44 years 2 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Discharge = 1

1 = 16 years 2 months

Retirement = 2

1 = 18 years 6 months

1 = 16 years 3 months

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Discharge = 1

1 = 15 years 6 months

Resignation = 1

1 = 4 years 1 month

Retirement = 1

1 = 22 years

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2026

FTE as of July 31, 2025

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>BUDGETED FTE</u>	<u>FILLED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	<u>EXEMPT FTE</u>	<u>TOTAL FILLED PLUS PENDING MINUS EXEMPT FTE</u>
Support Services (Executive/MSD/FSD)	82.3	79.00	4.00	(1.00)	82.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	230.0	208.00	25.00	0.00	233.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	113.0	104.00	5.00	0.00	109.00
VR/SBVI-DP	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	100.0	98.00	7.00	0.00	105.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	131.5	111.00	19.00	0.00	130.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	660.80	604.00	60.00	(1.00)	663.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	327.20	311.00	0.00	(311.00)	311.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	988.00	915.00	60.00	(312.00)	974.00

FY 26 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
August 2025

- As of August 1, 2025, the VR program has completed 3,665 applications, 2,577 plans for employment, and 776 successful outcomes. The data indicates that we are on track to surpass last year's totals in all areas.
- Wages on successful outcomes are \$17.49 per hour, with an average of 33.5 hours worked per week. 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 7 counselor vacancies currently.
- We are looking to fill two Program Manager positions, and two Job Placement positions.
- Training is taking place with the Institute for Community Inclusion out of UMASS Boston. We have partnered with Developmental Disabilities Services on this initiative.
- The Alva office has relocated. We are looking for additional space in Ada and Tulsa.
- The VR program held a Program Manager/Field Coordinator meeting in late July.
- We continue to have staff dedicated to working on the Employment First Task Force, regarding sub-minimum wage. It's unknown at this time how changes at the federal level will impact this effort.
- A Project Directors meeting occurred in May. The Division Administrator and Employment Support Staff were in attendance. We are hoping our collaboration with Developmental Disabilities Services will increase the number of Community Rehabilitation Providers throughout the state. Regular meetings continue to be held with Developmental Disabilities Services regarding our work readiness streamlining process.
- VR/SBVI had a good group of staff members attend the most recent Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation conference. The partnership between Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services and the Native American Tribal VR programs in Oklahoma is one of the strongest in the nation.
- VR/SBVI also had a good group of staff members attend the annual Association of People Supporting Employment First conference. The group also participated in a day on the hill and met with our federal House and Senate members' offices.

- A shout out to SBVI for hosting Deaf Blind Awareness Day at Metro Tech. It was a very successful event.
- Monthly performance review meetings continue. At this time, Priority Groups 1 and 2 continue to be open, and Priority Group 3 is being cleared at least monthly.
- New Employee Academy was held recently. We had a large group and they were very engaged.
- The Division Administrator has been active with the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Association planning committee. A conference is planned for September 18th and 19th in Oklahoma City.

Business Services

- In spring 2026, Business Services will be conducting statewide disability training with a focus on rural areas. Topics will include ADA, interviewing, accommodations, customer service, and return on investment. These trainings will be in partnership with ABLE Tech and the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council.
- Four recent Impact meetings were held throughout the state. Some of the sponsors included Starbucks (Enid) and Creoks (Tulsa).
- There will be a Career Expo held on September 9th in Tulsa. The event will be co-hosted with Tulsa Tech, The Autism Foundation, and the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council. The event will include professional headshots as well as student skill showcases with Tulsa Public Schools.
- A new partnership has been developed with Dynamic Workforce Solutions.
- The Business team is working with Work Ready Oklahoma as a partner to host Impact Meetings and conduct a hiring event on September 9th.
- The team will also be co-hosting a job fair in Lawton with OESC, Lawton transportation, and city libraries to expand outreach.
- Dana Campbell is our most recent addition to the team. She has been hired as a Business Liaison and will be housed in Oklahoma City. She brings a wealth of experience to us.
- There were 3 trainings/presentations on disability employment and job search conducted this past quarter.

As always, I'm extremely proud of our VR employees, and I am honored to work with them. They are definitely the backbone of the program.

Respectfully submitted,

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



SSI/SSDI Update

Commission Report

Vocational Rehabilitation | SSA VR Programs Office

Kevin Statham requested a meeting with me prior to a special DRS Commission meeting earlier this year. We discussed the reimbursement program (a.k.a. 410 fund). I let him know we were not on the blistering pace that we had been in recent years. He inquired as to a possible technical reason for this. I assured him that I would make sure that there is no "glitch" in the system. I can confirm that there does not appear to be an issue on the technological side of things.

As of July 31, 2025, the VR reimbursement program successfully transitioned 122 clients off the Social Security disability rolls, returning \$1,551,164.46 in revenue to the State of Oklahoma. These numbers reflect activity through just over three quarters of the federal fiscal year, and they're already placing FY2025 among the top-performing years in the in the previous 3 decades of collected data.

We've reached 52.8% of last year's total client exits and 48.8% of last year's total revenue, with nearly two full months remaining in the fiscal year. This strong year-to-date performance is on pace to be among the most productive years we've ever recorded. Understandably, because we are coming off 4 consecutive years of astronomical numbers, it's not hard to imagine how it could make this year seem like something less than successful. However, the numbers don't support that theory.

I wanted to also point out that Oklahoma led the way by developing an in-house SSA certified benefit counseling team in 2009. This was a pivotal moment in this program's evolution. I've had the honor of leading the "benefits planning" team since it was created. These are hybrid counselors dually trained in both VR counseling and SSA work incentive counseling. At inception, they had no peers. A group of master's level counselors uber focused on providing one-on-one counseling to disability beneficiaries. This trailblazing unit has been able to arm SSI/SSDI recipients with clear guidance and encouragement to transition off benefits and re-enter the workforce. The

results were immediate and measurable. In 2009, only 58 individuals exited the rolls. Just one year later, that number more than doubled to 135, and by 2013, it had surged to 318 exits. This was accompanied by over \$4 million in revenue returned to the state, the highest ever recorded.

This sharp upward trend starting in 2010 is no coincidence. It directly reflects the success of that strategy. It has made Oklahoma VR a perennial, per capita powerhouse in terms of VR reimbursement outcomes. And FY2025 continues that legacy of performance. We've already outpaced more than half of the historical data set, and we're doing so with a model built on sustained engagement, individualized support, and proven results.

I'm honored to be part of a program delivering sustained results, improving lives, and returning millions to the state each year. FY2025 is the latest chapter in a long-standing story of success.

I, along with my team, believe that VR is a life-changing, taxpayer creating, freedom bringing program like no other. We will continue to work daily to ensure every beneficiary has a chance to grab their piece of the American dream! The only way you can get on disability benefits is to be determined unable to work any known job in America. We take these same Oklahomans and help them start a lifetime of competitive employment!

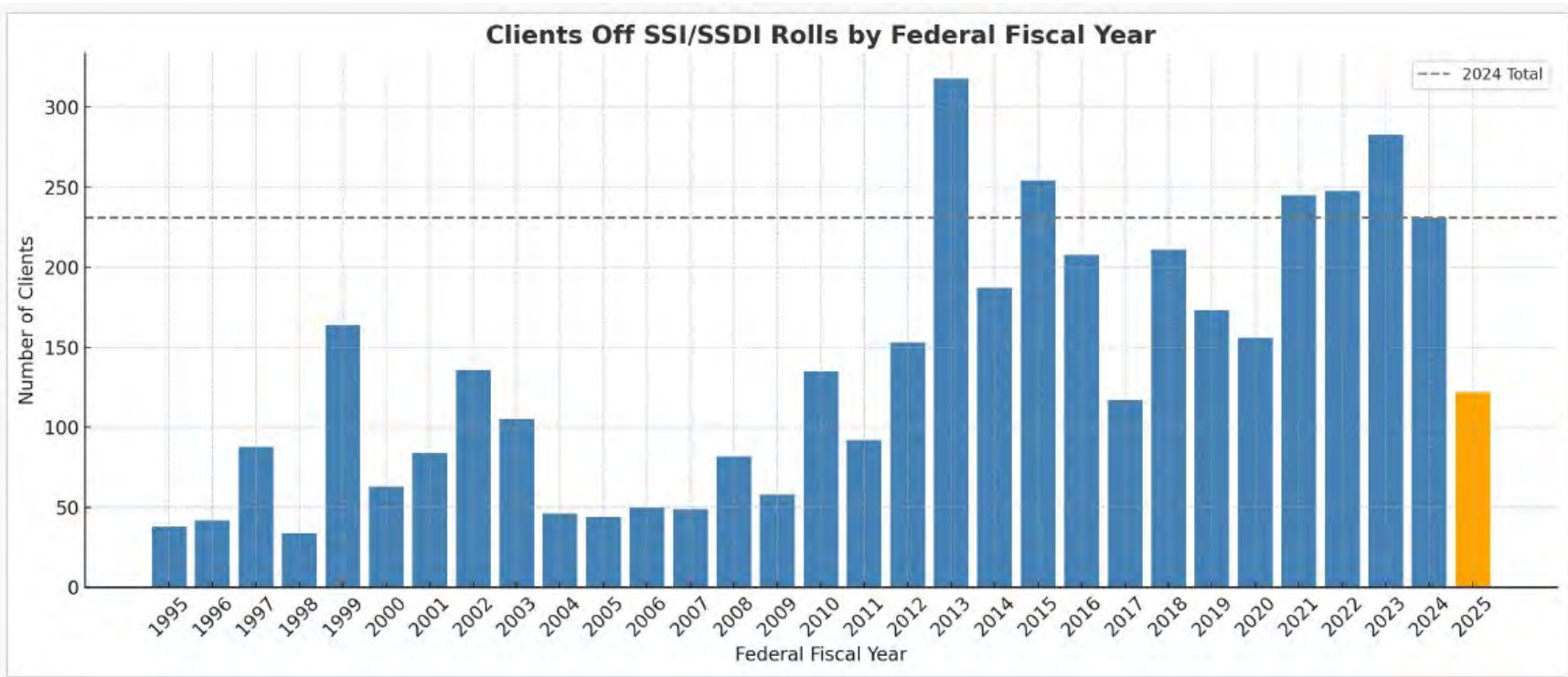
Thank you for the opportunity to do this rewarding and fulfilling work!

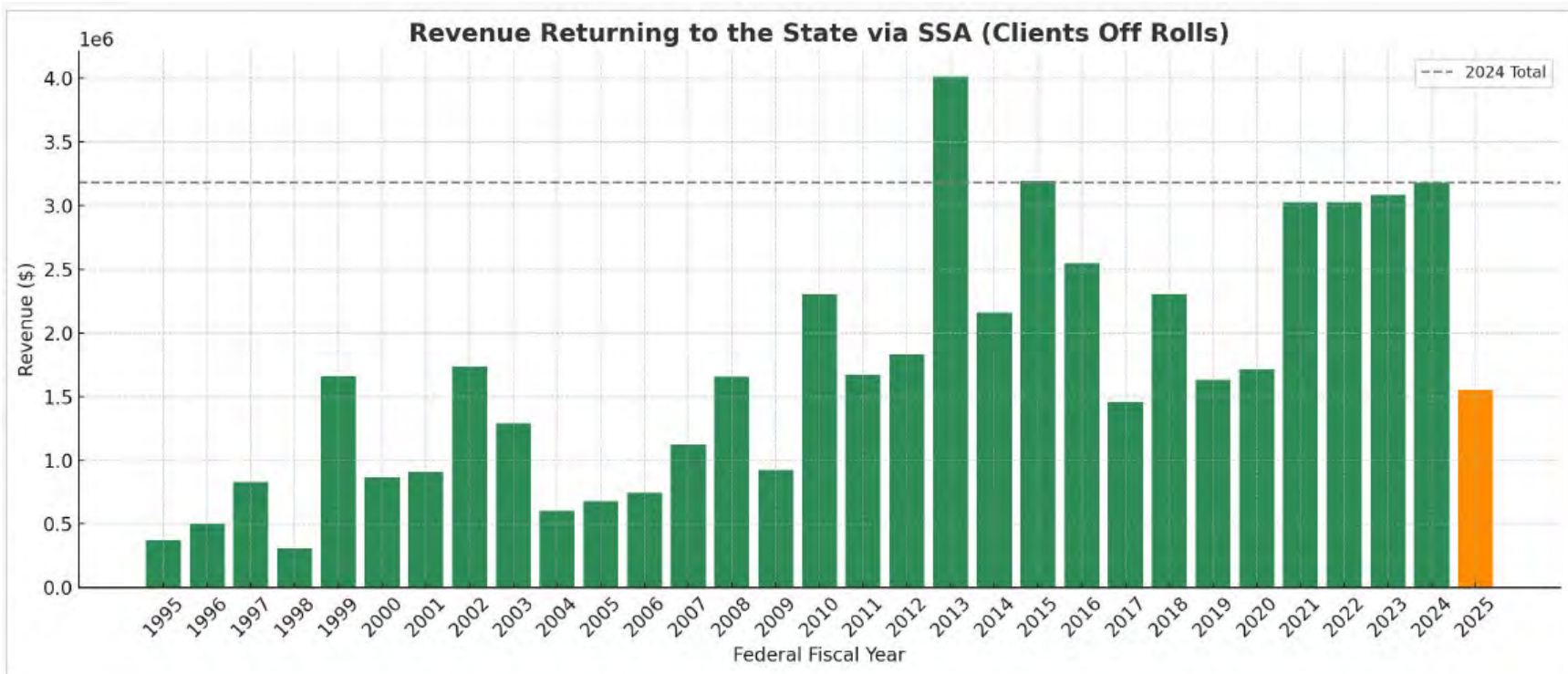
Jason T. Price, CRC | Program Manager II

Vocational Rehabilitation | SSA VR Programs Office

SSI/SSDI CLIENTS LEAVING ROLLS	FY		AMOUNT
38	1995	\$	373,653.05
42	1996	\$	502,036.69
88	1997	\$	828,903.36
34	1998	\$	309,142.87
164	1999	\$	1,661,674.44
63	2000	\$	865,187.90
84	2001	\$	910,305.72
136	2002	\$	1,737,611.03
105	2003	\$	1,287,802.07
46	2004	\$	604,666.49
44	2005	\$	678,661.63
50	2006	\$	745,576.32
49	2007	\$	1,119,620.36
82	2008	\$	1,656,867.43
58	2009	\$	923,166.43
135	2010	\$	2,302,240.22
92	2011	\$	1,672,487.41
153	2012	\$	1,829,981.04
318	2013	\$	4,011,911.77
187	2014	\$	2,159,541.80
254	2015	\$	3,194,831.95
208	2016	\$	2,548,436.99
117	2017	\$	1,458,796.22
211	2018	\$	2,303,272.55
173	2019	\$	1,631,927.67
156	2020	\$	1,716,225.31
245	2021	\$	3,024,755.05
248	2022	\$	3,026,469.84
283	2023	\$	3,082,508.58
231	2024	\$	3,181,270.02
4094			\$51,349,532.21

SSI/SSDI CLIENTS LEAVING ROLLS	FY		AMOUNT
58	2009	\$	923,166.43
135	2010	\$	2,302,240.22
92	2011	\$	1,672,487.41
153	2012	\$	1,829,981.04
318	2013	\$	4,011,911.77
187	2014	\$	2,159,541.80
254	2015	\$	3,194,831.95
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248	2022	\$	3,026,469.84
283	2023	\$	3,082,508.58
231	2024	\$	3,181,270.02
3069		\$	38,067,822.85







Transition Services Report

Commission report

Transition updates – April through August 4th, 2025

Pre-ETS Updates

Transition continues to maintain relationships and provide resources around the state to and with our Pre-ETS. The 41 (and growing) Pre-Employment Transition Specialists are still currently working with students and schools on providing Pre-ETS services in over 250 schools, including Central Tech and Kiamichi Tech. The 6 work skills trainers through the Pre-ETS contracts are increasing inclusion in the communities and competitive integrated workplaces. Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB) also has 2 of these workers for the school year and they continue to work with the Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) programs as well as other Pre-ETS programs around the state. This will allow students to work during high school and gain work experience with some support.

1. Pre-ETS from Central Tech and Kiamichi - We continue to grow this program in the Northeastern part of the state including Bristow, Cleveland, Cushing, Davenport, Depew, Drumright, Hominy, Kellyville, Kiefer, Mannford, Mounds, Oilton, Olive, Prue, Ripley, Sapulpa, West Side Christian Academy, and Yale in partnership with the Central Technology Center. They have a staff of 8 providing services and supporting Pre-ETS. Kiamichi Tech Center began Pre-ETS at their campuses in August 2023. Kiamichi has 9 campuses, which are reaching some rural areas – Talihina, Durant, McAlister, Idabel, Stigler, Poteau, Hugo, Wilburton, and Atoka and they have 9 Pre-ETS providing these services to potentially eligible and DRS clients.

The Pre-ETS contract continues to work with Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ) and Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma (DASCO). We are also working with FeedMeGems, formerly known as HairCandybyHan with the Work Based Learning model in Edmond. She continues to have 2 students working through the WBL experience. They now only have a virtual presence due to the rising cost of rent. She plans on expanding and hiring others and is seeking more opportunities. Bridges in Tulsa are utilizing this opportunity for those surrounding schools as well. We have had discussions with other possible employers such as Okie Goods, Safe Haven Rescue, a Vet Clinic, a PT Clinic, and Kendall's Restaurant to expand opportunities

- a. Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ), FeedMeGems, and Bridges have a contract for Work Based Learning where students participating in a work-based learning experience is essential to empowering students with a disability to develop job skills, realize the benefits of earned income, explore different types of employment and

work environments, and gain experience with competitive integrated employment. We are reimbursing employers for those work-based learning opportunities based on hours worked, not to exceed 120 hours in one year.

- b. DSACO has a self-advocacy center where they have a staff that delivers pre-ETS activities to those students throughout the year.

Staff Updates

Transition Support Services (my team) is FULLY STAFFED!!! Yay! This places a Transition Program Field Representative (PFR) in EACH quadrant of the state to provide support and offer more opportunities to the entire state! Also, we have Jessie Renteria, an administrative assistant, and Chris Compton, who is over the School Work Study contracts, newsletters, and all things summer applications, etc. The team is doing great, and I am so excited!!

Jeff Newton is a new member of my team, including Kevin Randall, Chris Compton, Tracy Keeley, Jessie Renteria, and Porsheana Brown. Jeff will serve the Southwest region of the state in providing support and growing programs in those areas. He has hit the ground running and has already made great connections with VR offices, Pre-ETS, and schools in those areas. I cannot wait to watch the continued growth within Transition. He is housed in the OKC Career Planning Center on Robinson with the other DRS staff including Kevin Randall.

Jeff holds a bachelor's degree in education from Northeastern State University and a master's degree in special education with an emphasis in Transition from the University of Oklahoma. Jeff has been a Special Education Transition Specialist for Oklahoma City Public Schools since 2009. Previously, Jeff was a Transition Specialist for the Cherokee Nation and contracted management at the Oklahoma City Public Schools Service Center. Jeff is passionate about helping young adults with disabilities reach their full potential in a job they look forward to each morning. Jeff is active in supporting positive changes in the community. Jeff and his wife, Kendra, have two adult sons, Jace and Cade. Jeff enjoys hiking, camping, attending concerts and sporting events, movies, walking, and gardening. Jeff favorite thing to do is spend time with his family, "They are my heart and soul".

iDRS Transition Page

Chris Compton has completed the updates to the Transition page on the iDRS page for all internal staff. He will be keeping that information updated from this point forward.

Peer Mentoring

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

School Work Study (SWS) Contracts

School Work Study contracts are being sent in steadily. We already have, as of August 1st, 160 contracts that have been signed for FY26. We are on target to exceed last year's number of 339 by May 2026. We are seeing more rural areas reaching out for contracts. Chris Compton keeps that information updated and does all the send outs!

Work Adjustment Training (WAT) Contracts

Work Adjustment Training Contracts are growing. We have 7 contracts as of August 1st, that have come back signed for FY26. We have several inquiries from schools across the state to begin WAT contracts. Those who have reached out are Bios, 4RKids, Tulsa, Sand Springs, Gatesway, Bethany, Durant, Noble, Broken Arrow, Muskogee – help with OSB, and some rural areas. Kevin Randall, Tracy Keeley, Porsheana Brown, and now Jeff Newton are all working with the schools on their proposals to submit to DRS for approval. We are seeing more rural areas reaching for WAT contracts as well.

Project Search

We still have ten sites beginning the 2025-2026 school year and we will have approximately 60-65 students this FY26. We have a new opportunity in Ada, Ardmore, Lawton, and Duncan that is still being discussed!! We are looking forward to more opportunities!! We are on the move. Also, we had a meeting with Tinker AFB about a Project SEARCH, and they are very interested. Ardmore and Ada will begin Project SEARCH in the fall of 2026, if not sooner.

Programming Updates

OSU-IDD - Self-Determination Training Program

This program has completed its year 2. They changed the name to OSU-IDD Self Determination Training. We currently have 12 in the program.

Micro-Credentialing – ABLE Tech

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

A meeting with ABLE Tech and Project SEARCH has started to introduce micro-credentialing and/or badges for those students. We will continue the discussion and keep everyone posted. Those involved were ABLE Tech staff, Brandi Hurley, Orlando Williams, Annie Baghdayan, and Transition DRS staff.

Oklahoma Inclusive Postsecondary Education – (OKIPSE)

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

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

We continue conversations with Julie Lackey and other CTE's to begin the process of having IPSE programs in the CTE's. OCCC received a portion of the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) to be able to have a pilot program at a Community College. Very exciting!! Training with the new awardees took place on 8/4/25 and TC presented to all participants about DRS Transition.

Competitive Employability Readiness Training (CERT) Culinary

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

DHS/OJA/DMHSAS – MOUs

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

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

THRIVE Summer Program with UCO

The Transition Coordinator and the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) are in discussion to provide a new summer program that will be in expanding high-quality supports for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is planned to take place next summer and it will be a one-week, immersive college preview experience.

The Transition Coordinator is working with Rise Staffing, to provide an on-the-job Pre-ETS Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunity as a pilot with Jenks and Broken Arrow. The intent is to provide workplace readiness skills and work-based learning opportunities. This contract is still being reviewed and hopefully will begin on 10.1.25

Tutoring and Financial Literacy Contract Updates

Payne Education Center

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

ReadWrite Center

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

Shimmer – ADHD Coaching

A new contract is being developed for ADHD coaching, as another type of training to provide another option for autism and ADHD evaluations and therapy.

Core of Knowledge

A new contract is being developed as another type of training to provide another option for dyslexia evaluations and therapy.

Behoove

A new contract is being developed as another type of training to provide another option for dyslexia evaluations and therapy.

Mathnasium

This contract is in draft status and will be implemented on October 1st, 2025, for a workplace readiness program that relates to financial literacy. The goal would be to help those students, aged 14-21, with pre-employment skills in a structured program that would include direct instruction in financial literacy by Mathnasium instructors, using their robust curriculum. The locations will be in Edmond, Deer Creek, and North Oklahoma City.

Summer Program Review:

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

- a. Science Technology Engineering Mathematics – STEM camps –
 1. 5 Camps occurred this summer – in person in Ada, Davis, Noble, Waukomis, and Tulsa.
- b. Building Employment Skills for Today (BEST) followed by Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP). Summer was busy.

All Programs (BEST STEP, VIBE, STEM, OU Sooner Works Academy) – Preliminary numbers

1. **477** Students with disabilities served
2. **38** locations
3. **24** counties hosted a program

BEST STEP – Preliminary numbers

1. **781** applied for BEST STEP (540 accepted)
 1. The Transition Teams around the state are meeting on 9/23/25 for BEST STEP feedback. We have already made some changes to keep the attendees high to match the accepted.
2. **32** locations
3. **403** attended BEST
4. **289** worked in STEP summer internships
5. **113** DRS applications sent to potentially eligibl students with disabilities*
6. **16** new DRS clients as of 8/1/2025

What we don't know yet are the number of employers and total internship hours worked! The last day of work for ALL interns was 7/29/25.

Tulsa alone had over 100 students apply for BEST STEP, so we ended up having 2 different BEST STEP programs in Tulsa.

Our partnerships will include 1 workforce development board (COWIB), 3 Post-secondary institutions (pre-ETS teams), and an ever-growing employer list.

- c. BEST is one week of instruction - BEST provided opportunities to prepare students with disabilities, both DRS clients and potentially eligible students, ages 16-21, for real life jobs, careers, and situations. Engaging youth in job search activities, work readiness, access to employment and vocational opportunities, making networking/social connections and pre-employment transition skills (pre-ETS).
- d. STEP is 4 weeks of paid work experience - STEP was the employment piece of the summer program. Teachers and paraprofessionals were hired to assist with development and being a job skills trainer to ensure these students are getting the help needed in the community on the job. We had 73 Work Skills Trainers to assist. Students working during the summer got wages paid through Central Oklahoma Workforce Board (COWIB) partner.
 - 1. Guest speakers were included again during the BEST portion of the camp during the lunch hour.
 - 2. ABLE Tech provided accessibility tool kits for the students so that they could have experience with requesting accommodation, etc.
- e. We will begin the process of working for summer 2026 in September 2025. The applications will open back up on November 1st, 2026.
- f. Sooner Works Summer Academy was held in June at OU again this summer. It is a residential summer college experience for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) on the University of Oklahoma (OU) campus and DRS. DRS supported 15 students. These students are current high school students who have completed the 10th grade (estimated ages 15-20) and are DRS clients or potentially eligible students with disabilities ("participating students") interested in attending a postsecondary education program with an emphasis on interest in PSE program.
- g. Visually Impaired Blindness Empowerment (VIBE)
- h. The Transitional VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration. This one-week program is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce, and independent living to the best of their ability. They learned Independent Living Skills, Communication Skills, Team Building, Travel/transportation, Career and Job Exploration, Interviews, Technology, Resume Skills, Exploration of College/Career and Tech/Workforce. The pre-ETS specialists will continue to be involved in this as well. There was a total of 14 students served. We

had 1 student who attended VIBE and got the opportunity to do STEP in their own community. He was successful and we look forward to growing that VIBE STEP program.

Transition Newsletter

If you have not subscribed to our external Transition Newsletter, please do.

The subscription link is located at

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/OKDRS/subscriber/new>. We always need Success Stories. Please send your leads stories / names to Tracy, Kevin, Porsheana, Jeff, and Chris for the Newsletters. **We have reached 3,429 subscribers as of August 1st, 2025. We are 71 away from reaching our next goal of 3,500**

Meetings and Activities

1. TC has attended many BEST STEP Meetings with staff (TC and staff traveled the state to ensure support to BEST STEP locations as well as attending in place of work skills trainers to support students for a few hours), Business Services COWIB Meetings, CSAVR transition committee meetings, Joining Forces Planning Meetings, School presentations and fairs, Down Syndrome Association Central Oklahoma meetings, OCCY Strengthening and Youth Custody Meetings, Project SEARCH meetings and partners meetings, Cimarron Public Transit board meetings, counselor / tech check-in meetings, Career Pathways meetings, OTC Meetings, NTACTION CTE/SpEd/VR Meetings, Pre-ETS Blindness CoP, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma Meetings, Collaborate for Change meetings, RSA – OPC Advisory Board meetings, OSB quarterly meetings, Pre-VR meetings, VR TAC Meetings, Choctaw Nation meetings to expand transition services, Policy Committee meetings, OU special education / transition department meetings in class, SNU boot camp presentations, OKIPSE meetings, CSAW meetings, CSAT meetings, DDS / DRS meetings, Micro-Credentialing meetings with ABLE Tech, VRTAC / RSA update meetings, OU Zarrow, DCDT meetings, Pathway to Partnerships Meetings with OSDE, CBI meetings for the state plan for Oklahoma, conferences, and Education and Training Subcommittee Meetings.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thank you so much,

Respectfully submitted: Renee Sansom Briscoe



Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Report

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Report

Since the last ORC report to the Commission, the Council met in person on May 15, 2025, at Francis Tuttle Rockwell Campus.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on July 7, 2025, via Zoom.

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan, and all the activities and objectives are ongoing.

Six positions in the Council will expire in September 2025. The positions include:

- Advocacy Group: Shelley Gladden will complete both terms on the Council and needs to be replaced. Julie Lackey and Lucia Frohling are finishing their first term and could be reappointed, but we need to confirm with the Director of Appointments.
- Previous recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): Jeff Newton resigned in March, and the position hasn't been filled. We've submitted one candidate for this but haven't heard back from the Governor's office.
- Business, Industry and Labor (BIL): Cameron Whitman's first term is expiring, but we haven't heard if he can continue on a second term.
- Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) Service Provider: Nikki Jolly, will be finishing her first term and wishes to continue for a second term.

The ORC Program Manager (PM) is coordinating a meeting with the Director of Appointments at the Governor's Office to review this information.

The Council will be informed about the vacancies once we have confirmation from all the members about their intent to continue, and we hope to get recommendations for the open positions soon. Even if these positions are not appointed immediately, we still have enough members for a quorum, and we don't expect to have any issues beginning FFY26.

Jeff's resignation meant that the Council had to appoint Sharon Harrison the Vice-Chair, as the new Chair. Sharon could no longer serve as the Employment Committee Chair, and Taylor Rhoades was appointed as Chair until we had the August Officer Election.

The ORC PM attended the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) conference in June in Spokane, WA.

Program and Planning (P&P) Committee

The P&P Committee met on June 26, 2025, via Zoom.

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan, and all the objectives and activities are ongoing.

The DRS Customer Satisfaction survey has been completed, and the report has been shared with the Council. The Council's assistance during this survey was appreciated, and we will work with the DRS Process Improvement (PI) Unit when the next one starts to discuss different ways to improve the number of responses.

Stephanie Roe shared with the Committee that the State Plan process will soon begin. The Committee will work with DRS to ensure the completion of its part.

Policy and Legislative (P&L) Committee Report

The P&L Committee met on July 7, 2025, via Zoom.

The Committee continues to promote the ORC Legislative Primer, which includes valuable information about DRS's impact and services. The digital version can be found on [ORC's website](#).

The Council had a booth at People with Disabilities Awareness Day (PWDAD), and several members registered to attend and assist with the legislative visits.

Transition Committee Report

The Transition Committee met on June 26, 2025, via Zoom.

The Committee reviewed the information and draft for the FFY26 Transition Folders. This latest update will have fewer resource categories than before, but will keep all the important resources and information that families and schools need to prepare children for transition.

The final draft has been sent for review to the Committee, and the marketing process will start mid-August. The new version will be available in the Fall.

Employment Committee Report

The Employment Committee met on July 22, 2025, via Zoom.

The Committee used this meeting as a meet and greet with the DRS Business Services Program (BSP). The new Committee Chair and the rest of the members introduced themselves to the BSP staff and discussed the priorities for FFY26.

The current strategic plan was also reviewed during the meeting, and new plans were implemented to collaborate more efficiently with the BSP unit.

Respectfully submitted by Carolina Colclasure, ORC Program Manager



Oklahoma School for the Deaf Donation Report

OSD Donation Report

June 2025

Donations Under \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
6/10/2025	Stillwater Milling Co		70100-10003-01	Clothes Closet	\$ 82.39
6/10/2025	Tractor Supply		70100-10003-01	Clothes Closet	\$ 131.42
6/10/2025	Sulphur Chamber of Commerce		70100-10003-01	Clothes Closet	\$ 105.00
6/10/2025	Mike Helleck Chevrolet	\$ 150.00	70100-10003-01	Clothes Closet	
Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00		\$ 150.00		Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	\$ 318.81

Donations Over \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
6/10/2025	Dr. Teresa Lynn	\$ 500.00	70100-10003-01	Clothes Closet	
6/10/2025	NW Oklahoma City Rotary	\$ 1,000.00		Needy Pupil	
Subtotal Cash Over \$500.00		\$ 1,500.00		Subtotal Property Over \$500.00	\$ -
Subtotal Cash Combined		\$ 1,650.00		Subtotal Property Combined	\$ 318.81

Total donations for June 2025

\$1,968.81

OSD Donation Report

July 2025

Donations Under \$500.00

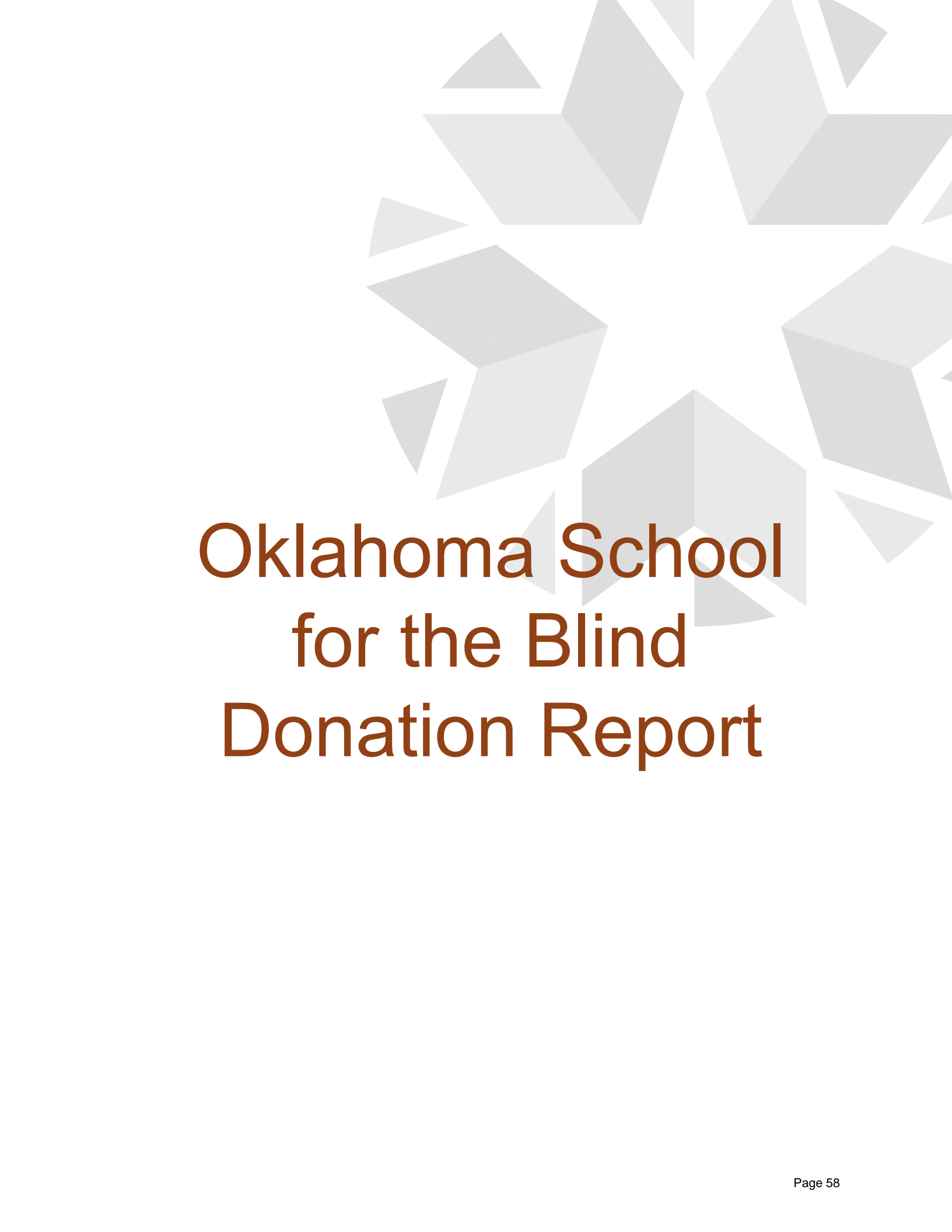
Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
7/10/2025	Jennifer Evans			70100 Clothes Closet	\$ 64.00
7/10/2025	BancFirst			70100 Clothes Closet & Staff planners	\$ 310.00
7/10/2025	Walmart		70100	Clothes Closet	\$ 32.97
7/16/2025	Walmart		70100-20005	Gift Card for Athletics Burrito fundraiser	\$ 100.00
7/16/2025	Sooner Foods		70100-20005	Gift Card for Athletics Burrito fundraiser	\$ 50.00
Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00		\$ -		Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	\$ 556.97

Donations Over \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
7/10/2025	Vison Bank		70100	Back to school items	\$ 640.00
Subtotal Cash Over \$500.00		\$ -		Subtotal Property Over \$500.00	\$ 640.00
Subtotal Cash Combined				Subtotal Property Combined	\$ 1,196.97

Total donations for July 2025

\$1,196.97



Oklahoma School for the Blind Donation Report

OSB DONATION REPORT

June 2025 Donations

Donations under \$500

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
6/3/2025	Casey's General Stores/Loyalty Program/ Recreation	\$ 58.20	701		
6/5/2025	Tahlequah Lions Club / Recreation	\$ 300.00	701		
6/16/2025	Shekinah Network / Technolgy, speakers			speakers	\$ 390.00

Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in June 2025	\$ 358.20		Subtotal prop.	\$ 390.00
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Donations \$500 and over

	\$ -			
6/3/2025	Delta Gamma-Eta Omicron UAFS / Recreation	\$ 1,088.00	701	
6/5/2024	Shekinah Network / Technology equipment			\$ 5,200.00

Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in June 2025	\$ 1,088.00		Subtotal prop.	\$ 5,200.00
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TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS June - 2025	\$7,036.20	
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OSB DONATION REPORT

July 2025 Donations

Donations under \$500

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
7/23/2025	Karen Renfro			Braille typewriter	\$ 200.00

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

\$ -

Subtotal prop. \$ 200.00

Donations \$500 and over

\$ -


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

\$ -

Subtotal prop. \$ -

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS July 2025

\$200.00



Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Report

OLBPH June 2025 Donations

Donations under \$500				
DATE	NAME	CASH	PROPERTY	VALUE
06/16/2025**	Clinton Regional Hospital Auxiliary	\$75		
Subtotal of Donations Under \$500	\$75			

Total Donation Amount	\$75
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**Donation made in honor of Greg Colvin, an OTR volunteer

Donations under \$500				
DATE	NAME	CASH	PROPERTY	VALUE
07/29/2025	Women of the Moose (Enid Chapter)	\$50		
Subtotal of Donations Under \$500	\$50			

Total Donation Amount	\$50
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Proposed 2026 Commission Meeting Schedule



OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES
State Office, 3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Proposed 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 14, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
February 11, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
March 11, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
April 8, 2026	10:30 AM	Oklahoma School for the Deaf Sulphur, OK
May 13, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
June 10, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
July, 2026	NO COMMISSION MEETING	
August 12, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
September 9, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
October 14, 2026	10:30 AM	Oklahoma School for the Blind Muskogee, OK
November 11, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200
December 9, 2026	10:30 AM	State Office, Suite 200

Contact:

Kathleen Arrieta, Assistant to the Commission

Kathleen.Arrieta@okdrs.gov



Commission Minutes

June 4, 2025



Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Commissioner Flannery with a quorum present. Dr. Janet Barresi, Vice-Chair and Kelsey Lee, Member were in attendance.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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

OVERVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY RULE PROCESS RELATED TO DRS CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP) AND THE ADOPTION OF INTERNAL POLICY RELATED TO FIXED RATES.

Grant Moak, Assistant Attorney General

The emergency rules will be voted on at the June 11th meeting. The vote is a stopgap measure to get the amended rules, approved. The approved amended rules are necessary to complete the corrective action plan (CAP) from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

The emergency rules will expire in September 2026 and will then need to go through the permanent rulemaking process.

During a brief discussion, new language was suggested for the emergency rules, however, Stephanie Roe noted that the current language came from RSA and is meant to align with the local education agreement, and adding new language will delay the emergency rule process. It was decided to wait to fine tune the language until the rules go through the permanent rulemaking process in September 2026.

Kathy Lowry gave a brief overview of the internal policy regarding Fixed Rate Services Contracts and Procedure for Establishing Fixed Rates, which is also related to the RSA CAP and will be voted on the June 11th meeting.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Flannery made a motion to convene into an Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the performance review of the Executive Director as authorized the Open Meeting Act 25 O.S. 307 (B) (7), Commissioner Barresi seconded. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

VOTE TO RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Lee to reconvene into Regular Session. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission Assistant was directed to work with Human Resources to create an evaluation for Director Freundt's performance review. The final evaluation is to be sent to Commissioner Flannery by July 4th. The Commission will then meet to score. Commission Assistant will schedule a special meeting in July to discuss the budget.

ADJOURN

Theresa Flannery, Chair

The meeting was adjourned.



Commission Minutes

June 11, 2025



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Commissioner Flannery with a quorum. Present: Theresa Flannery, Commission Chair and Kelsey Lee, Member. Dr. Janet Barresi, Commission, Vice-Chair, joined the meeting at 10:40 am.

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

Report highlights:

Meetings and Events Attended in May and June:

- Graduations at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf and the Oklahoma School for the Blind.
- The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Graduation. There were eight graduates, which is the largest class so far. All graduates received a vending license, badge, and have a vending site to begin work.

Other Information:

- Process Improvement has submitted the RSA-911 report for the third quarter of the program year.
- Launched collaboration with Alliance to kick off the new Business Enterprise Program (BEP AWARE).
- In Case Review, a focus was placed on developing a new review process regarding potentially eligible transition students as a result of the RSA monitoring recommendations.
- Program Standards, Statistical Research, Data Dashboards – Work continues on the Statewide Needs Assessment, and the data collection for the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) survey.
- Power Business Intelligence (BI) – Training continues in Coursera; work continues to transition reports currently hosted in Tableau to the Power BI service.

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Executive Director Melinda Fruendt
Commissioners Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery, and Kelsey Lee

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison

SB 770, which increases the number of members on the Rehabilitation Services Commission from 3 to 7, was passed on May 6, 2025, but was vetoed by Governor Stitt. Senate authors overrode the veto on May 29, 2025.

Beginning July 1, 2025, the Commission quorum is four members. Ms. Hardin has been in contact with the appointing offices to make sure that the Commission has the new members appointed as soon as possible. Efforts will be made to try to recruit a Commission member with disabilities to reflect DRS's client needs.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Kevin Statham, CFO

- Financial Status Report for FY 2025. As of April 30, 2025, the agency spent \$123M of the \$202M budget, with remaining encumbrances of \$67.M which represent 94.2% of the budget.
- FY 2027 - FY 2034 Capital Outlay Request. There are six projects at the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) totaling \$18.2M, and two at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) totaling \$5M. At this point, moving forward with all projects is unlikely due to the budget, and the lack of any school bond for capital projects. Some projects may be partially completed if the budget allows.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to accept the capital outlay requests as priorities for the agency. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

- FY 2026 Expenditure Limits and FTE Budgetary Limit
After a brief discussion concerning the possibility of more federal monies in August, it was decided to table this agenda item until the August 13, 2025, meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Tom Patt, HR Director

As of May 31, 2025, nine vacant positions were filled, and 62 positions were open. There were seven separations which included retirements, resignations, and discharges. There were 973 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED REPORT

Tracy Bringham, Division Administrator

Priority Group Update as of May 13, 2025:

- All 22 clients were released off the Priority Group 3 waitlist on June 6th.
- Priority Groups 1 and 2 are open.
- Priority Group 3 is closed, clients waiting: 0
- Total clients on waiting list: 0

Portal Referral Update:

- Received 57 applications:
 - 29 active referrals
 - 13 referrals pending assignment
 - 4 new applications taken
 - 6 closed – already has an active case or refused service
 - 8 closed – other reasons

Report Highlights:

- DeafBlind Awareness Day will be held June 30th at the Metro Tech Springlake Campus.
- As of May 30, 2025, there were 269 applications to SBVI with an average of 38 days from application to eligibility. There were 70 clients successfully employed with an average wage of \$16.59, which is above the average for the general population.
- Summer VIBE (Visually Impaired and Blindness Empowerment) programs will be held this summer in June and July on the Oklahoma School for the Blind campus. In addition, a new VIBE focusing on employment will be held this fall.
- The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Coordinator is in talks with the Oklahoma School of Science and Math and the Department of Corrections about potential new services such as cafeteria and canteen services.
- Work continues on the HVAC at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP) UPDATE

Stephanie Roe, Project Coordinator

The third quarterly report was submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on April 30, and comments were received back from RSA on May 15. RSA resolved six additional findings, and the fourth quarter report will be submitted to RSA on July 30.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC) REPORT

Sidna Madden-Trimnell, Executive Director

Report Highlights:

- Legislative advocacy is ongoing, particularly with National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC) and will continue at the 2026 NASILC Conference in March.
- The National Independent Living stakeholder meetings have resumed after a pause caused by federal government eliminating the Administration on Community Living (ACL) but are now resuming.
- Due to advocacy, the final federal budget moves away from earlier proposed cuts: programs under ACL will remain together rather than being split apart; several programs previously proposed for elimination have been partially restored, and there is an increase in Independent Living funding.
- Several critical programs remain proposed for elimination: University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), Limb-Loss Resource Center, and the Paralysis Resource Center.
- HB 1664, which allows SILC meetings to use an electronic meeting format so that members with disabilities can attend, was passed into law.

REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT CHANGES

Kathy Lowry, CPO and Compliance Officer

This proposal represents a FY 2026 rate increase request for three contracts, which will address the increased cost of doing business by Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs), who provide supported employment services to disabled clients.

- Supplemental Employment Services (SES) Contract: increase to \$1354.65 from the 2025 rate of \$454.30.
- Supported Employment Services (SE) Contracts: (1) Job Support and Retention increase to \$3094.20 from the 2025 rate of \$2062.80, and (2) Job Stabilization increase to \$3506.25 from the 2025 rate of \$2337.50.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to approve the 2025 Employment Contract Rate changes. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2025 EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES PURSUANT TO 75 O.S. § 253

Tina Calloway, Administrative Programs Officer; Policy, Administration and Development Section

The 2025 Administrative Rule Amendments were sent to the Commission in February but due to a missed deadline they were not submitted. The proposed rules that were previously sent to the Commission for initial review will be submitted through an emergency basis after Commission approval.

The rules are necessary pursuant to 75 O.S. § 253(a)(1)(c) and (e) to avoid violation of federal law and to avoid serious prejudice to the public interest. The rules are required to comply with the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) established by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the U.S. Department of Education following the RSA audit of DRS for FY24. Compliance with the CAP is necessary for DRS to continue receiving federal funds in order to provide vocational rehabilitation services to Oklahomans with disabilities.

The rule amendments summary and revisions were presented as below.

2025 Emergency Administrative Rule Amendments - Title 612. Chapter 10. Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired:

- Subchapter 3. Client Participation in Cost of Services - 612:10-3-3. Participation of individuals in cost of services based on financial need [AMENDED]
- Subchapter 7. Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Part 3. Case Processing Requirements - 612:10-7-25.1. Ability to serve all eligible individuals; Order of Selection (OOS) for services [AMENDED]
 - Part 5. Case Status and Classification System - 612:10-7-50.1. Assessment for determining rehabilitation needs [AMENDED], 612:10-7-51. Individualized Plan for Employment [AMENDED], 612:10-7-55. Job Ready [AMENDED]
 - Part 14. Community Provider Employment Services - 612:10-7-137. Job Services [REVOKED]
 - Part 17. Supported Employment Services - 612:10-7-184. Extended services [AMENDED]
 - Part 25. Transition from School to Work Study Program [AMENDED] - 612:10-7-240. Overview of transition from school to work study services [AMENDED], 612:10-7-242. Pre-Employment Transition Services [AMENDED]

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to approve the 2025 Emergency Administrative Rule Amendments. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DRS INTERNAL POLICY

Tina Calloway, Administrative Programs Officer; Policy, Administration and Development Section

A change to the internal policy was presented: DRS 3-9-24.1 Fixed Rate Service Contracts and Procedure for Establishing Fixed rates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Lee to adopt the 2025 Internal Policy regarding Fixed Rate Service Contracts and Procedure for Establishing Fixed rates. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

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

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

The donations for May 2025 totaled \$6,649.14.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to accept the May 2025 OSD donations. All 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 May 2025 totaled \$3,452.05.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 14, 2025 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Theresa Flannery, Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Barresi and seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2025, Commission meeting as submitted. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

Theresa Flannery, Chair

This agenda item was tabled until the August 13, 2025, meeting.

ADJOURN

Theresa Flannery, Chair

The meeting was adjourned.



Commission Minutes

June 20, 2025



Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Commissioner Flannery with a quorum present: Dr. Janet Barresi, Vice-Chair, and Kelsey Lee, Member

Commissioner Flannery welcomed guests Mr. Kevin Wallace, who was recently appointed, and whose term will begin July 1, 2025, and Representatives Emily Gise and Josh Cantrell.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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

OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET AND IMPLICATIONS OF A FLAT BUDGET FOR FY26

Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Statham gave an overview of the plan for the state FY 2026 budget as developed by agency leadership and the budgetary challenges for the agency.

Highlights of the overview:

Basic Support – VR, SBVI & BEP

- Staff positions funded in SFY-25 that are not currently announced will be unfunded for SFY-26.
- Positions vacated during SFY-26 may be filled but will be reviewed as the year progresses.
- \$260K will be available for career progressions.
- Travel will be reviewed by division administrators to maintain reasonable and necessary criteria.
- It is intended to keep Priority Group 1 & 2 open throughout the year but is subject to a monthly review. Priority 3 will continue to be reviewed monthly.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH)

- HB 2766 appropriated \$150,000 to the AIM Center

Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB)

- Teacher Step Increases will occur even though increases were not funded.
- Work to equalize the extra duty pay schedule will be implemented.
- Funding for Capital projects will be distributed equally between the two schools. Both schools will lean on donations, \$100K of which will be set aside for student activities.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD)

- Teacher Step Increases will occur even though increases were not funded.
- Work to equalize the extra duty pay schedule will be implemented.
- The remaining vacancies will be filled.
- Funding for Capital projects will be distributed equally between the two schools. Both schools will lean on donations, \$100K of which will be set aside for student activities.

Disability Determination Services

- The Social Security Administration has not released any hiring authority to the States.
- The Pathfinder cost for new employees makes hiring difficult for SFY-26.

Support Services

- Positions not announced will be unfunded for SFY-26.
- Positions vacated during SFY-26 may be filled but will be reviewed as the year progresses.
- Travel will be reviewed by division administrators to maintain reasonable and necessary criteria.
- The Pathfinder cost for new employees makes hiring difficult for SFY-26.

Summary

- Aside from payroll and client services, all other operational costs will be managed.
- Moving forward with services is critical to meeting the program's metrics of graduating students and putting people to work.
- As the budget request is prepared for October, the agency will continue to advocate for funding the budget so that the agency receives the federal match, and ways to deal with the rising cost of Pathfinder for newer employees.

ADJOURN

Theresa Flannery, Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Flannery and seconded by Commissioner Barresi to adjourn. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.