**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**March 9, 2020**

**Remembrance**

DRS family member, Mr. Matt DeJonge, Professional Relations Officer, Disability Determination Services, passed away unexpectedly on February 16, 2020. Matt had been employed with the DRS/DDS since 2004.  He began his career as a Disability Specialist, progressing through all levels.  In the last few years, Matt served as a Professional Relations Officer working with medical vendors who perform consultative examinations for the DDS.  He had just completed work on a cost-savings initiative for the service provided by the Oklahoma City metro area medical vendors with whom he worked.  Matt was a valued member of the DDS and a friend to all who knew him and he leaves behind a legacy of friendship, service, and stewardship.

**Executive**

Director and staff attended the Career Opportunity Expo at Shepherd Center, Oklahoma City, on February 11. The Business Services Program did an exceptional job in planning, coordinating and executing the expo. Notable mention goes to Fatos Floyd as the leader of this event.

Director, Stephanie Roe, and Charlie Watt met with the Access for All team regarding the progress made on the star accessibility framework. The Access for All initiative sets the state strategy for the accessibility for the workforce system. The Star Accessibility Framework operationalizes the strategy by providing resources and a tool for measuring progress.

Director and staff met for the VR/SBVI Performance Team meeting on February 13.

Director and staff attended the second bi-lingual workshop meeting at OSD on February 14.

Director and staff participated in the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council meeting on February 20.

Director and Renee Sansom participated in the Lead/Learn/Live meeting with DHS staff on February 21.

Director and staff participated in the Employee Investment Program, The Infinite Game, presented by Craig Glasscock, Professional Development, DRS, on February 27.

Director met with Sharon Harrison, Harrison Consulting Group, March 2. Sharon is conducting interviews to extend her work regarding ecosystems workforce committees – composition and strategic direction, including disability environments. Sharon will interview other DRS staff and clients.

**Process Improvement**

**Federal Reporting**

RSA 911 PY2018 Q2 report has been submitted.

**AWARE**

The AWARE team has been testing AWARE document attachments and working with OMES on the plan for migrating documents from Knoweldgelake.

The team is conducting trainings with Units to improve the quality of data with Measurable Skills Gains, credential attainment, and Pre-Employment Transition Services.

**Case Reviews**

The Team is currently formulating a Data Validity audit to assist in identifying any issues with the data that is entered in the AWARE system by the field staff to ensure information reported to RSA per the 911 report is accurate.

**Program Standards, Statistical Research**

The research team:

* Are working with SBVI staff to revise the VIBE program evaluation tool,
* Working with the OSB and OSD Superintendents to revise the parent satisfaction surveys,
* Created a staff survey for the E-team to gather input on ways to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of VR,
* Participated in the annual disability compendium webinar and the Oklahoma Department of Education’s SSIP Stakeholder Input 2020 virtual meeting, and
* Are working with the AWARE team to develop a data validity system to ensure the accuracy of the RSA-911 reports.

The revised open and closed case client surveys are open and receiving responses. The VR and SBVI staff training needs assessment is also receiving responses.

Tiffany Davis is working with Jody Harlan and Dana Tallon from the Communications Unit on Census materials for distribution on the agency’s public-facing websites, social media accounts, and in local DRS offices.

***Respectfully submitted by***

***Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director***