

VR Commission Report September 2020

Return To Office:

- Staff started staggered schedules on July 6th returning to the office. All offices are taking action to assure social distancing and use of PPE. We are remaining as flexible as possible.
- We are currently in our second phase of return to office which began August 3, 2020. The second phase calls for unrestricted travel to clients and communities, with rules of social distancing and wearing of PPE. This will be a flexible situation with staff giving consent to travel as well as our clients to meet.
- Weekly meetings with management continue with Zoom. Most of the issues center on work productivity, staff needs, supplies, and returning to the office.

Transition Services:

- Transition Services continue to be active in reaching clients and potentially eligible clients. STEM Camp this summer was a success, with Tech.-Now changing the format to a virtual opportunity. Pre-Employment Transition Specialists participated nightly to provide pre-employment transition services.
- We have 278 School Work Study Contracts this year.
- We completed our first pilot with the Riverhawks NSU program.
- Oklahoma Transition Institute will be held September 28, 29th, and 30th this year. Director Fruendt is scheduled to give a brief Introduction regarding the 100 year anniversary and family engagement.
- Judi Goldston with OU, and Transition Coordinator, Renee Sansom are in the works of having a Project Search in Tulsa and Muskogee. Business Coordinator, Fatos Floyd and her team are helping to promote businesses for this effort.
- Renee and Judi are working to hire 5 additional Pre-Employment Specialists to work the far north, east, south and west of the state.

- Renee has reached out to the Department of Commerce regarding youth apprenticeship opportunities. A grant was approved in June and DRS will be able to provide a pipeline of talent to the cause.

Business Services

- Our team continues to provide qualified candidates from our client pool to businesses. Our clients are getting up to date job openings, and staff are engaging with local chambers of commerce.
- Business Advisory Council meetings continue by ZOOM in all areas.
- Our team has provided trainings to Ditch Witch and Toro HR in regards to reasonable accommodations.
- Training to the Tulsa BAC.
- Training on employment and soft skills to clients.
- Work Ready Oklahoma Talent Acquisition Portal Training to DRS counselors and clients.
- LinkedIn training to clients and counselors.
- We will be hosting a Virtual Business Summit on October 15, 2020.
- Our Business Services Team, has worked with frontline staff to capture email contact information to our clients that are job ready. The Business Services Team has generated a distribution list for jobs, being sent to clients.

Employment Support Services:

- Our team is working with Developmental Disabilities Services in applying for a grant to enhance employment services to individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Our team is staying in close communications with our Community Rehabilitation Providers, as they return to providing services in person.

- We continue to be flexible with Community Rehabilitation Providers due to COVID-19.

Client Services:

- Our Vocational Evaluators, Psychological Clinicians, Assistive Technology Specialists, and Benefits Planners are receiving referrals from counselors and are working in person and through Virtual Formats to carry out services.
- Our counselors and Support Staff are meeting with clients both in person and virtually.
- A total of 225 clients were released from the wait list on September 3, 2020. This cleared Priority group 1 and approximately 165 in PG2.
- We are working with 7,995 active cases in the VR division.
- Applications for this year are at 2,879. Plans are at 1,833, and Employment outcomes are at 895. All of these totals are down as expected from 2019.
- Our MSG rate is at 45%, which is above our RSA negotiated rate for 2020.

As always I'm honored to work with our staff in an effort to promote independence and quality of life to Oklahoman's with disabilities.

Sincerely,



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