**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**October 14, 2019**

**Executive**

Director and Randy Weaver participated in the United We Ride council, September 12.

Director was the emcee for the awards ceremony for the 1st Joint Conference of the Oklahoma People First and Oklahoma Association for Persons in Supported Employment on September 13.

Director met with the new executive director of Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, Don Morris, on September 16.

Director and Tiffany Davis met with Nyree Cunningham Pullen, Dallas Regional Census Center, to discuss how DRS partner in advocating Why the Census Matters for People with Disabilities. DRS is committed to encouraging staff and consumers with disabilities to participate in the Census 2020. The meeting was held September 18.

Director and staff participated in the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Strategic Planning session, September 19.

Director participated in the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth meeting, September 20.

Director made a presentation during the Oklahoma Council of the Blind (OCB) annual conference in Tulsa, September 21.

Director and Janie Ball attended the Business Advisory Council meeting with Chris Wishon and Fatos Floyd in Enid, September 24.

Director, Janie Ball, Carol Brown, and Jody Harlan attended the Western Heritage Day in Haskell for the Oklahoma School for the Blind, September 25.

Director met with Cabinet Secretary Steve Buck, September 26.

Director, Tonya Garman, and Kevin Nelson participated in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Office of Mobility and Public Transit, Strategic Traction 1365 session, September 27.

Director and staff met October 1 on Performance Team - WIOA initiatives.

Director and staff met with the Oklahoma School for the Blind Executive Team, October 2.

Director participated in the Workforce Core Partners meeting, October 4.

**Process Improvement (PI)**

*AWARE*

AWARE has been upgraded to version 6.6 as of 9/21/2019.

The team is in continued discussions with Alliance regarding going to a hosted service model as well as adopting the use of the AWARE attachment feature as an alternative to document management for AWARE cases information.

The team is in the final development of the interface between AWARE and the America's Job Link to allow for data sharing with OK Workforce. Testing on the finished product was the week of September 23. If all goes well the team should be able to deliver the first data batch to OK Workforce by the week of September 30.

## *Program Standards, Statistical Research*

The research staff attended the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Strategic Planning meeting and continues to work with ORC on implementation of new case milestone surveys.

Work continues on the 2019 Legislative Map and a preliminary evaluation of the VIBE program. The research staff continue to assist with the evaluation planning for OK Works for All.

***Respectfully submitted by***

***Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director***