# ORC Program Manager Report – Carolina Colclasure

Since our last report to the Commission in June, the Council and the Program Manager (PM) have:

June 6th and 7th; the PM attended the TechAccessOK Conference at the Sheridan Hotel downtown. The conference brought experts from the state and across the country to share knowledge and expertise on accessibility; some of the presentations attended were:

* Understanding and evaluating contrast and color use
* Web content accessibility guidelines
* Building a sustainable documentation remediation plan
* Speaking truth to power
* Accessibility in practice

The PM attended the Employment and Housing Summit on June 20; it was sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OKDMHSAS) and coordinated by the Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) Program Staff that ORC is supporting. The summit was at the Embassy Suites in Norman; it consisted of a General session and then it was divided into 5 different workshop tracks that included Housing, Employment, Youth, the 411 and Resources. The PM attended the Employment workshops to use the information for the Employment Committee and some of the sessions were:

* Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) and target populations
* Education Supports are Important
* Employment Assistance Panel
* Live Experience Panel.

The National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) had its first national conference call of 2019 on June 26. The call included participants from all over the country and the main topics discussed were:

* Presentation of the Guidebook: the NCSRC Board created a Guidebook for SRC Chair Persons, Members and Administrators. It contains very helpful information for all the new Council members such as:
	+ History of the State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC)
	+ Training Information
	+ Pre-Approval Requirements for SRCs
	+ Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) basic information
	+ Basic SRC information including: appointments, composition, functions, meetings and more
	+ The recruitment of new members
	+ Resignation of Officers & members
	+ The Guidebook is available at [NCSRC’s Website](https://ncsrc.starchapter.com/images/downloads/guidebook_for_src_chairpersons.pdf) and can be downloaded. Print copies of the Guidebook can be provided by the PM.
* The Board also presented the new [NCSRC Website](https://ncsrc.net/index.php) https://ncsrc.net/index.php. It contains all the information and presentations of the previous conferences, the information of the upcoming conferences and all the information regarding the NCSRC.
* The proposed version of the NCSRC By-Laws was presented and reviewed by the board; comments or suggestions were requested and more information will be provided at the Fall NCSRC Conference.
* The Fall NCSRC Conference dates and information was shared and they encouraged all Councils to begin their Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) pre-approval process. The conference will be in Jacksonville, FL this year on October 26 and 27.

The PM attended the second part of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Bootcamp in Wichita, Kansas July 17-19. The Bootcamp was part of the Pre-Conference sessions at the 2019 NAWB Forum; it was created to provide more information to new Workforce Executive Directors and the public in general, on how to successfully run Workforce meetings and help with specific issues that boards have to face.

This session of the Bootcamp was developed to review the following topics:

* Fiscal and Grant Management
* Data Analytics, how to use the data available to showcase your work
* Current national workforce trends
* Holding effective Boards Meetings
* Current State of regional and cross-system work
* Networking: Challenges and successes to use in your State

The Bootcamp will have a third session that will include the presentation of a Capstone Project to the NAWB Board in Washington DC in October of 2019.

The PM attended the SILC meeting on July 26 at the Library for the Blind.

The Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (OKTVR) held its 2019 Conference at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant on August 7-9, 2019. The Council was part of the planning committee and assisted with the organization and planning of the conference. The focus this year was Transition Services, and the ORC assisted through the Oklahoma Transition Council (OTC) to have three presenters during the first day of the conference. The conference included the following sessions:

* Transition 101
* Transition Roundtable
* Career Planning Center and Transition Outreach
* Department of Education Resources
* Poverty Simulation
* Southern Plains Tribal Health Board: Disabilities and Disparities and Cultural Aspects.
* OKTVR Talking Circle

The conference was a success withover 50 attendees including DRS, Tribal staff and Tribal partners. The feedback provided to the Chickasaw representatives was very positive and will be used with future planning.

The Council had its Quarterly meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019;Fatos Floyd, DRS Business Services Coordinator, was the guest speaker. She provided a summary of everything her unit has done in the past year as well as the goals she wants the Council to help with for FFY2020.

The ORC met again on September 19, for the Strategic Planning meeting at the DRS Career Planning Center. There were sixteen members present, as well as DRS’ Executive Team; the session was very informative. It started with Director Fruendt giving the Council an update as well as potential ideas for inclusion in the FFY 2020 ORC Strategic Plan; both Mark Kinnison and Tracy Brigham, the VR and VS Division Administrators respectively, gave the Council updates about the Agency’s Order of Selection and new activities since the August Quarterly meeting.

Following the DRS reports, the ORC Committees had a two hour breakout session to work on the new Strategic Plan (SP) for FFY2020. Each Committee then presented to the whole Council the new objectives and activities for FFY 2020:

* Review and provide feedback on the 5 Star Rating Rubric being developed for statewide use with the Oklahoma Workforce System to ensure Access for All.
* Support the Designated State Agency (DSA) by advocating for census participation by individuals with disabilities.
* Review findings of the case milestone surveys conducted by the DSA and give recommendations for continued or improved quality of service.
* Provide public comment on policy changes, promote consumer attendance at all public hearings and distribute flyers with summary of proposed changes and information on public hearings.
* ORC PM will coordinate to share pertinent disability-related information and resources with OK Congressional members in their local district offices.
* ORC will visit with State Legislators to share information and stories as appropriate.
* The ORC will promote self-advocacy and self-determination trainings and resources for youth and their families to increase future opportunities for success by partnering with the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Parent’s Center.
* Partner with the DRS Business Services Program (BSP) and Oklahoma ABLE Tech to provide employers in Oklahoma information regarding accessibility in the workplace in order to create a viable employment marketplace for VS clientele.
* Support the preparation of the Oklahoma City Business Advisory Council (BAC) Career Expo at Shepherd Center on February 11, 2020.

The complete version of ORC’s Strategic Plan will be able at [ORC’s Website](https://orc.okstate.edu/) https://orc.okstate.edu/ soon.

##  Regular Meetings

Department of Rehabilitation Services Commission Meeting

ABLE Tech Advisory Meeting

Oklahoma Transition Council (OTC) Meetings

ORC Committee Meetings

Business Advisory Council (BAC) – Oklahoma City and Tulsa.