February 11, 2019 OKDRS Regular Commission Meeting
Submitted by Melinda Fruendt, Director

Remembrance
The DRS family remembers our friend and former co-worker Larry E. Bishop who passed away on January 13, 2019. Larry was the very first assistant to the Commission for Rehabilitation Services, a member of the original DRS Executive Team and administrator of Policy Development and Programs Standards Unit. He retired from DRS in May 2014.

Executive
DRS Budget Hearing – Director, CFO, and Legislative Liaison presented to the Health Appropriations Subcommittee.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) Senior Days – Director participated and gave a Director's Welcome at the annual event hosted by the DRS Service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing unit in partnership with OSD. Senior Days includes activities and transition learning experiences for the senior class to prepare these students for life beyond high school. Students engage in interactive activities related to budgeting, applying for financial aid and college, mock job interviews, and other independent living and employability scenarios to prepare students to pursue their career goals after graduation. So proud to hear from each of the senior students on their planned next steps of their future. All should be very proud!

United We Ride Meeting – Director attended the meeting held at the Vezey Veteran Center in Oklahoma City. A special presentation was given by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the Rural Transportation Grant.

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) – Director was provided orientation as a new commissioner. Attended first meeting as a new commissioner. Received an overview of the "Leveraging the Possibilities of The Federal Family First Prevention Services Act and the Preschool Development Grant" from the Oklahoma Partnership of School Readiness Program (OPSR). Rita Echelle is the DRS representative on the OPSR.

Client Success Story meeting – DRS staff and ORC came together to streamline the process on success stories.

Able Tech Advisory Council meeting – Director attended. Received an overview on Financial Education and Money Smart collaboration.

Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development – Director and staff attended. Received a talent pipeline report summary; council bylaws revisions; WIOA PY 17 Annual report; Update on the Reach Higher Adult Degree Completion Program. State Board and Strategic Planning will be held April 25-26, 2019.

Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Council meeting– Director and staff attended and gave remarks. DRS is committed to updating the MOU with the tribal programs and providing letters of support for the grant submissions.

Process Improvement (PI)
AWARE
The AWARE team has been working on adaptations for the roll out of Actual Services for some Visual Services staff, which will allow a way to track agency provided O&M and Rehab Teaching services. The team will be conducting training on the use of these Actual Services in February. The team continues to work on RSA-911 error corrections.

Case Review
Quality Assurance is reviewing future processes to include the implementation of electronic signatures procedures for eligibility and closures. Changes made accordingly to the Case Review Instrument and corresponding Guide. Other changes included removing all Form references in the Guide and updating of federal citations to ensure consistency and information accessibility.

January case reviews consisted of cases closed between 11/16/2018 - 12/15/2018 from a random pull sampling with a minimum goal of reading 52 cases per Reviewer. In addition, a special audit was conducted of 60 open SSI/SSDI cases for purpose of determining if benefit planning information was provided to applicants and eligible individuals in a timely manner.

QA team met with Chris Kennedy, Teresa McDermott, Terry Williams Murphy and Alisa Estes to review the recent QA Guide for corrections, answer questions and gain insight to field concerns and provided follow-up to questions that required further research.

Program Standards, Statistical Research
The research staff finished analysis of the counselor survey results for the AWARE, business services, and transition teams. Staff are working on data for the Statewide Assessment and have continued planning with Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council for the VR and VS Open case survey.