**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**January 13, 2020**

**Remembrance**

Our DRS family remembers Rick Olderbak, Assistant Attorney General. Mr. Olderbak passed away December 14, 2019. Mr. Olderbak was a member of the DRS family since 2009. He was an outstanding attorney and a good man. He will be greatly missed.

**Executive**

Director and staff participated in the VR/SBVI Performance Team meeting on December 3.

Director, Kevin Statham, and Kevin Nelson met with the Senate and House appropriations committees for the DRS Budget Hearing on December 4.

Director participated in the Oklahoma Partnership on School Readiness meeting on December 5.

Director and Kevin Statham met with partners on the Oklahoma Stable Account on December 6.

Director and Kevin Statham participated in the quarterly meeting of the Human Services and Early Childhood Initiatives Cabinet on December 13.

Director and staff met with Niki Batt, Vice Deputy Attorney General and Grant Moak, Assistant Attorney General on December 18. They will be triaging attorney services temporarily.

Director, Kevin Statham, and Kevin Nelson met with Senator Kirt regarding workforce issues on December 19.

Director and Tonya Garman attended the OSD Christmas program on December 20.

Director and Kevin Statham met with the Governor and Secretary John Budd on December 20.

Director met with Jeff Hughes, Director, Progressive Independence, on independent living issues on January 6.

Director and Kevin Statham participated in the Governor’s Leadership Summit on January 7.

Director attended the United We Ride meeting on January 9.

**Happy Holidays 2019 Message from Director to Staff**:

Wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season.  As the year comes to an end, I want to send a special thanks to each of you, members of our DRS family, for your continued commitment and hard work on providing a better life for consumers with disabilities.  Enjoy your time off with family and friends.  I wish for peace on earth and goodwill towards men!

**Process Improvement**

**AWARE**

The AWARE team has initiated a pilot program with Unit 07 entering Actual Services for Counseling & Guidance. This group has begun entering Actual Services and will be making suggestions and recommendations to present to agency leadership.

The AWARE team is continuing to test the attachment feature and has reached out to other VR agencies to inquire about their use of attachments.

The team has also been in contact with Missouri regarding the Potentially Eligible case type to help determine best practice for progression of the Potentially Eligible case type in Oklahoma.

The team is presently wrapping up the AJLA data sharing project. Alliance has completed its work and AJLA is finishing up its piece. It is anticipated to be in production sometime after the first of the year.

**Program Standards, Statistical Research**

The research staff are training on Tableau and SPSS and are planning for the next Statewide Needs Assessment.

***Respectfully submitted by***

***Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director***