

SBVI Commission Report

May 2020

Field Services

Sandra Evans, SBVI Counselor at Enid attended a Lunch and Learn event on 1/28/20 held at Integris Bass Baptist Medical Center in Enid. The guest speaker was Michael Bowling, law firm director who focuses his practice on labor and employment law and human resources compliance. Ms. Evans was able to meet with several community entities and human resources contacts and share about DRS services and our clients who are job seekers.

Sandra Evans and Alisha Norwood from the Enid office attended the 4th annual Resource and Transition Fair at Pioneer Tech in Ponca City on 2/10/20. This is a very informative event focusing on seminars for teachers, Pre-Ets info for students and parents and features multiple vendors all addressing “what happens after high school.” SBVI and VR always host a booth to disseminate information about DRS services to the students, faculty and parents who are in attendance.

Pam Holloway, Rehab Teacher, presented to the Senior Nutrition Office at 5016 NW 10th Street OKC on 2/20/20. She spoke with 20 nutrition location supervisors from OKC and surrounding communities and disseminated her cards, Older Blind and library brochures. She also discussed our agency services, as well as also different eye conditions, client choice and how we help to improve independence.

Pam Holloway, Rehab Teacher, presented on 2/27/20 to the Tower Senior Living Center on NW 9th Street in OKC. There was 18 residents present; most of whom were over 55 living in a HUD independent center. These types of presentations help get the word out about SBVI Older Blind services.

Staff participated in the NPS 2020 Transition Resource Fair at Norman New Central Pioneer Library on 3/3/20.

Instructional Staff in OKC presented to the Health Science College of Nursing on 3/12/20. This was the 3rd annual event that SBVI staff have participated in. The goal is to present information about SBVI services to nurses and nursing students. There were 155 nursing students in attendance and our staff demonstrated blindness sensitivity training. Areas covered included travel/mobility (including human guide), basic activities of daily living (including modifications for daily activities at home or in a hospital) and accessible medical devices. The students were given blind folds and items to simulate arthritis, blindness, deafness and neuropathy. They also discussed accommodating a person with a disability as related to medical needs in clinics, hospitals and senior living centers in an open forum format. Staff who participated were Pam Holloway and Deitra Woody, Rehab Teachers, and Debi Trout, O&M Instructor.

BEP

Facilities:

We currently have 33 Business enterprise facilities

5 pending site surveys including a Micro Market with Grand River Dam Authority; 2 Indian Health Services locations; 2 VA centers

Tinker Solicitation Pending

FAA Solicitation Pending

Fort Sill Arbitration still in process (settlement was presented and is under review).

Facility Announcements for satellite facilities pending due to COVID-19

Highway vending sites – food trucks approved. Working with ODOT to mitigate losses to Licensed Vendors (LV's).

Temporary FEMA sites closed 04/23/20

2 BEP sites have reported positive COVID-19 cases. Safety measures implemented and communicated.

Staff Updates:

PMP's being completed.

Staff training being developed.

Working with Business Services Program and counselors to place potential employees in LV's facilities.

Continued services provided via safe, alternative measures (i.e. zoom, telework, in person when permitted with PPE and screening).

Developing return to work plan.

Licensed Vendors:

2 BEP licensee candidates (training via zoom).

19 licensed vendors (does not include pending retirement/removal).

2 pending retirement (Jon Wardwell – June; Rene Mark – May).

1 retired April 2020 (Randy Howard).

1 pending removal (Kenny Blair).

Work Orders:

21 work orders have been received since 03/10.

15 completed; 6 pending due to no access to facilities.

No impacts to ordering, receiving, etc.

Staff needs:

Business Manager, II Position

Consultant Position

Vending Tech position

*Annual conference pending cancellation

Transition

TC(Transition Coordinator) has attended multiple trainings for supervisory credits at DRS and at the Jim Thorpe Building.

TC attended Project Search intern interviews for Canadian Valley Technology Center.

TC met with the Central Oklahoma Association for Teachers Coalition (COATC) to provide information to them regarding the new pre-ETS contract.

TC, Brandi Hurley(BH) and Jim Kettler continue to receive School Work Study contracts at the schools. The process for FY21 began in February. Kim Lohr has been helping us get and keep the list of counselors and schools up to date for every quarter. This spreadsheet is being sent out along with the Trendy Transition Newsletter every quarter! We are so grateful for both Jim and Kim.

TC and BH presented Transition information at Academy.

TC continues to be involved with the Transition Committee through CSAVR and NCSAB.

TC presented at the Open House for the Riverhawks Scholar Program in Tahlequah. DRS and NSU have a pilot that started January 2020 for students with intellectual disabilities. We are in discussion with OU (Sooner Works) for a contract now. OSU has reached out, but since COVID-19, no meeting has been scheduled as of yet.

BH and Casey Williamson have spent time developing the Transition page internally for DRS employees. Working on forms, best practices and Transition related topics to the page. BH is keeping it updated and it is a great resource for counselors and techs.

TC attended multiple OJA, OCCY, SOWJC and COJC meetings about the youth in custody.

TC and BH have participated in a training through DRS for BrainFit for Work and Life Training.

TC has attended multiple NTACTION/WINTAC webinars and zoom meetings regarding COVID-19 and other resources to give to students, teachers, counselors and techs.

TC and BH attended a DRS Transition Fair with Enid Counselor, Rachel Brown and SBVI counselor, Sandy Evans in Ponca City at the Pioneer Technology Center.

TC and BH attended and presented about transition at the career Expo.

TC continues to meet with Epic charter schools and Oklahoma Virtual Charter Academy on how to build a working relationship and work together for students with disabilities as well as incorporate virtual job shadowing opportunities to those students.

TC and BH continue to be a part of the planning for the 15th Oklahoma Transition Institute with the Oklahoma Transition Council. It is scheduled for September 28 and 29, virtually at this point.

TC continues to work with Claudia Otto on presentations in Spanish to parents and advocates of students with disabilities to families who English is not their first language. This will help develop some self-advocacy skills for parents, transition aged youth during the IEP's, and IPE's so that those kids can be successful and not fall through the cracks. There are plans to continue this in OKC and Tulsa through this year virtually at this point.

TC attended several FC/PM meetings held virtually.

TC and BH attended several BAC meetings held by Fatos Floyd. Currently planning the Business Summit in October.

TC and BH attended several staffing meetings for Pre-Ets with OU.

TC attended the Oklahoma Works Regional Workshop about AJC's and COWIB.

TC has been working on contracts including, WAT, SWS and all other transition contracts.

TC, OSB staff and Teresa McDermott attended a quarterly meeting for Oklahoma School for the Blind. Discussion about STEM, Pre-ETS and students' progress.

TC, Jana Woodard, Claressa Tuggle met with V. Davies and E. Gideon with Eastern Technology Center multiple times about SWS and other opportunities for the Choctaw, Harrah, Shawnee, Jones, Luther areas along with a new contract for a 13th year program.

TC and BH have met numerous times with Dana Clark and the Camp WOW team regarding Camp WOW. To date, this has been cancelled for the summer due to COVID-19.

TC and BH have met numerous times with DRS staff regarding STEP. TC has attended several interviews for teachers for this event with Kevin Randall as well. To date, this has been cancelled for the summer due to COVID-19. DRS staff and Pre-ETS staff are working hard to have some virtual sessions for these students this summer.

TC has been a part of the interview panel for Fatos Floyd with the Business Services Program in hiring for OKC.

TC and BH have been working with Communications Department, Brett Jones regarding brochures and marketing. New brochures have been printed. Other marketing materials are being designed.

TC, BH, Kim Lohr, Lori Chestnut, Linda Jaco and Carolina Colclasure have worked hard to get the Transition folders finalized. These folders are now awaiting an accessibility check from Able TECH and then to print. So exciting to have new ones soon.

TC and BH continue to have conversations with Jen Randle with YLF about the FEAT talk. Discussed power point ideas and changes, as she will present nationally this year. Made updates to the VR process. FEAT didn't occur due to COVID-19.

TC attended an emerging leaders in employment services information session through APSE. TC worked with Tiffany Davis and Barrett Waltz on getting pre/post testing information for STEP, STEM, Career Exploration and Camp WOW to work on getting results for this year.

TC and BH attended several Work Adjustment Training Audits.

TC has been on multiple calls and zoom meetings with St. Anthony's about becoming a new Project Search site.

TC and BH attended Disability Awareness Day and contributed to educating staff at the Capitol of DRS work.

TC and BH have met with Lori Chesnut multiple times in regards to the MOU for OSDE and DRS along with Pre-ETS and how we can utilize them in/out of school.

TC and BH have met with Judi Goldston multiple times in regards to the MOU for Pre-ETS and DRS along with OSDE and how we can utilize them in/out of school.

TC has worked with Communications Department, Dana Tallon regarding the Transition website. It is updated with Pre-ETS and STEM resources for the summer

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Camp (Crushin' Life), scheduled for June 14 – June 20 at OU Campus has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and lack of participants.

Pre-Ets contract is doing great. We have nine specialists that continue to work in the schools. One was hired to work in the Oklahoma City Public School System (all high schools). Another was hired to work the “west” part of the state at this time including Lawton and surround schools, up to Tuttle, Newcastle, Blanchard and other rural schools. The third will be focusing on Moore/Norman and down through Little Axe, Purcell and other surrounding schools in that area. The fourth one is the lead and is a mentor to the others at this time but still working on the east side of OKC in Luther, Jones, Chandler, etc. We are very excited. The fifth is working in the Muskogee area. The sixth is working the Tulsa area. The seventh is working with our online virtual academies and online charter schools and our eighth is doing work in the Enid and surrounding areas. Our ninth one is now working the Ada, Purcell, Lexington and surrounding areas. We are looking to hire in the Lawton area soon. The new contract will be looking at hiring up to 16, so 7 new positions. Mostly in the four far corners of the state and a few more in the Tulsa and Lawton areas. TC, BH and Judi Goldston present at any event we can get to regarding DRS and the partnership with OU and Pre-Ets by multiple meetings with public schools and other agencies. Working with the workforce centers as well is one of our many goals. In this Pre-Ets contract, we will be including peer mentoring as part of the contract along with the five required fields of the WIOA.

Judi Goldston, BH and TC are planning to host a Pre-Ets conference for surrounding states this summer. This will be done virtually at this point.

We are awaiting responses from OSD regarding STEM camp for the juniors and seniors at the beginning of the school year in August/September so that we do not interfere with camps they currently have going on in the summer. Dates for all other VIRTUAL STEM camps for the summer are as follows:

- a. Meeker Area- June 2nd-4th 2020
- b. Ada Area- June 8th-10th, 2020
- c. Tushka Area -June 16th -18th, 2020
- d. OKC Area - June 22nd – 24th, 2020
- e. OSB Tentative - June 29th - July 3rd, 2020 (Self-Advocacy camp possibly with Pre-ETS specialists too) – Moving to August / September
- f. Lawton Area – July 13th – 15th, 2020
- g. Owasso Area – July 20th – Jul 22nd, 2020
- h. Tulsa Central Church Area– July 29th – July 31st, 2020

TC sent out a quarterly Trendy Transition newsletter for the counselors and Transition staff to keep them apprised of what is going on in Transition. ORC program manager received to share with the Transition Committee as well.

TC has been involved in multiple Statewide Education Leadership Network Meetings (SELN)

TC has been involved with the State Workforce Youth Council meetings and participates on the ICAP subcommittee

TC attended and spoke at the Tech Now Training for new teachers regarding Tech-Now, STEM and the possibilities that DRS can offer.

TC has been in discussion with David DeNotaris from Sky's the Limit Communications regarding accessible Work Based Learning and pre-employment the blind and visually impaired.

TC and BH met with Rise Staffing regarding a new WAT contract.

TC met with Annie Bagdayan and Judi Goldston regarding Project Search and what it looks like for the virtual future.

TC and BH attended a zoom webinar for the Oklahoma Family Network Joining Forces Conference, the guest speaker presented about Hope Rising.

TC met with DA's, CFO and Director about WAT, SWS, Project Search and other summer programs. What it looks like? Billing? Discussion about what to send to counselors/techs.

TC attended Autism Network COVID-19 resources for students.

TC and BH attended a training over remote instruction and services for the blind and low vision virtually through the AFB leadership conference.

TC and BH attended a training over special education related service providers virtually via zoom.

TC and BH held a zoom meeting for BEP coordinator, Tannica Binder and Charles Pride regarding Transition opportunities for vending in different areas and possibility of making it a credit in the school systems.

TC and BH attended a zoom meeting regarding employment prep and work based learning virtually.

TC and BH attended via zoom, the Road to Independence (RTI) with DHS to present Pre-ETS and other information regarding summer virtual opportunities.

TC attended zoom meeting regarding Career Tech and VR.

TC and BH held a meeting for counselors and techs to have a check in with staff. Another one is scheduled for May 11th, 2020.

TC and BH attended a zoom meeting regarding career pathways community of practice.

TC met with Megan Scott with Department of Commerce regarding youth apprenticeship opportunities to partner with DRS. TC attended several meetings regarding maintaining mental health during COVID-19 zoom meeting to share with staff.

TC and BH attended Tech Thursday with Able Tech with ideas for virtual information.

TC and BH presented to the AJC partners meeting virtually regarding Pre-ETS to COWIB as well.

TC attended the VR 100 webinar regarding innovation strategies from VR virtually

TC attended the 5 languages of appreciation at work provided by DRS virtually
TC hosted virtually a meeting with OU regarding Pre-ETS and other MOU information.
TC attended virtually the special education distance learning community meeting.
TC attended online summit for COVID-19 K-12 on a new platform of Brazen Connect.
TC presented to WINTAC regarding STEM virtually this summer
TC attended OSU TeleEDGE Echo virtually regarding special education during COVID-19.
TC attended the OSU ECHO Addiction Medicine virtual meeting

Business Services Program

Projects

Career Opportunity Expo 2019, OKC 2/11/2019

First Dream it, Pitch it, Do it was held in Enid September 28, 2019. SCORE was invited to participate. Because of the input of this group it became a very successful meeting for the client. The VR Specialist was very impressed by the information that was provided.

Tulsa Job Placement Pilot Project

BSP Capitol Visits March 2020- BSP took the capitol March 3. Visited legislators to educate them further about DRS and the role of BSP.

Business Engagement/ Employer Trainings

ONE Gas Disability Awareness and ADA training provided by Simonne Jones and Charles Watt 9/26/2019

Doubletree Warren Place Mental Health in the Workplace Training 10/18/2019. Simonne Jones, Amanda Cothorn and Josh Bullock.

Grand Lake Mental Health training on Disability Awareness 2/7/20

Inclusivity Advisory Group with Tulsa Airport, BSP is on the committee to help business make building and materials more accessible for the passengers and their employees. Ongoing, last meeting was 2/21/20.

MAHARA ADA training with Yasmin Avila-Guillen on 3/13/2020
South Central Oklahoma Workforce Board (SCOWB), *Business Services, a Casual Conversation about Courtesy Rules of Working with People with Disabilities*, January 9, 2020

Grand Lake Behavioral Center: "Disability Etiquette for employees and customer service." February 7, 2020.

Muskogee Human Resources Association (several businesses included): "ADA Title I Basics. Reasonable Accommodations." March 13, 2020

Community Resource/Club/Organization Presentations

Coordinator-

Eastern workforce partner meeting
CSAVR and NCSAB presentations for BSP
Presented for Rose Collage and OU masters programs
NE workforce partner meeting

Tulsa Liaison

Job Corp Career Day: Provided information and applications to students at Job Corp on DRS services.
9/18/2019

Disability Courtesy, Interviewing Techniques and Accommodation Workshop for Businesses (Simonne Jones, Fatos Floyd) Lunch and Learn for the community 10/1/2019

Tulsa Rotary Club-Ongoing starting in September 2019, providing resources to their activities, projects and networks such as accessible forms and ways to make events accessible.

“Dare to Dream” College and Career fair for high school students, DRS booth to provide DRS information and applications to students for Tulsa Public Schools.

Tulsa Chamber Hospitality Club. Ongoing. BSP assist the chamber with ribbon cuttings of new businesses and member of the week celebrations. Started 12/2019.

Mental Health Association/Employment Services. Ongoing. BSP assist with job placement resources to both DRS and ODMHSAS participants.

36 Degrees N. BSP and Director are working on projects such as providing work space that will benefit the Dream it, Pitch it, Do it, program once Tulsa has candidates.

Enid Liaison

Rotary Club of Altus presentation. The Rotary Club is a group of businessmen in a town organized as a service club and to promote world peace. There were sixty-five plus in attendance. Business Services Liaison spoke about On the Job Training and Work Experience. Many questions were asked from the audience. The invitation came from Kerry Evans, Business and Service Director of Southwest Technology Center of Altus. This was a great success and the Business Services Liaison met several members. Several questions referred to “can a person still work while on Social Security”, “what steps are needed from the employer to start services”, “what is the success rate in putting a person to work from OKDRS”, and “who do I contact”.

AMBUC’s AM of Enid presentation at breakfast time. AMBUC’s support the scholars and AmTryke therapeutic programs, as well as conduct community projects that help those with disabilities. The unique tricycles, which can be and/or foot operated, are designed to accommodate riders of all ages, sizes and varying degrees of physical limitations. The presentation was with 15 attendees. The presentation consisted of what the OKDRS Business Services Program represented, plus the Business Liaison explained all of the different services that are offered by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation to include Visual Services, Vocational Services, and Oklahoma School for the Blind, Oklahoma School for the Deaf and the Disability Determination Services.

South Central Liaison

Metro Mountain Ambucs, Presentation to membership

East/Northeast Liaison-

Muskogee Human Resources Association presentation (several businesses including the Port Authority, First Bank and Integrity Staffing Solutions):

Partner Collaborations

Tulsa Chamber Mosaic Monthly Meeting Participation and Network September 9th

Dress for Success "Beyond the Suit" classes, BSP assisted with SDS assessments and resources for employment paths to participants in the class. Ongoing, monthly, started in 11/12/2019.

Tulsa Tech Education Summit-BSP Liaison provided information on disability on a panel of Diversity and Inclusion community leaders in two repeating sessions. 1/23/2020.

Tulsa Housing Authority Partner Housing Meetings and collaborations. BSP provided assistance on making materials accessible for job fairs in the community. Ongoing.

Oklahoma Association of Career and Employment Professionals (OACEP) Committee to provide exceptional annual training opportunities and networking for professionals serving students, job seekers, and the business sector. The annual conference was at the Shangri-La Resort, Monkey Island, Afton, October 24-25, 2019.

South Central Oklahoma Workforce Board member, quarterly attendance at meetings. Presentation of Disability Awareness. Presentation of Disability Awareness to Board members.

VS #62, Overview of DRS web site/Employer/BSP services, December 11, 2019

Dream It, Pitch it, Do it working with Score to improve the situation of Caddy Corner Consignment Store in Collinsville (business owned by OKDRS client).

Workforce Partners, OESC and One Stop Northeast (New Day, New Way meeting): BSP Services, Disability Awareness for Businesses and presentation of video "Talk" December 4, 2020.

ODMHSAS- OK, US Census Bureau, US Army Reserve- Oklahoma, Tinker AFB, Fort Sill, Calle Dos Cinco Business District.

Business Advisory Council Update-

Ada BAC- is currently inactive due to employer interest in the area- one meeting in the program year.

Enid BAC- Enid's first Business Advisory Council was created by this Business Liaison, and most of the above mentioned businesses are on it. Once the BAC really gets off the ground and running it is believed we will be able to achieve many positive things; for example, Job Fairs,

Brown Bag meetings, and more Business presentations. Out of these type of functions new jobs for people with disabilities will come. The Business Advisory Council is still learning what Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation is all about and their role they can play in this endeavor.

The Enid BAC has had three meetings, the first, September 24, 2019, meeting was an introduction of what the BAC is about. Fatos Floyd was the speaker. The 2nd meeting was November 12, 2019 the agenda included discussions on BAC projects, and the new Dream it, Pitch it program. The third meeting was January 23, 2020. Brayan Zamarripa presented on technology in the workplace and how a disable person can use it to help he/she in performance. Fatos Floyd also added to Brayan Zamarripa' s presentation. Christine Wishon asked the attendees to think of ideas on how a person with disabilities can fit in the workplace and what the BAC can do to get the word out. The Business Advisory Council will start meeting quarterly. The next BAC meeting is scheduled May 19, 2020. The new BAC Council consists from 5 to 9 members.

Lawton BAC The Council is working with Transition Counselor and Lawton Public School Transition Counselor/Job Coordinator. Employers have agreed to serve at the annual transition fair as mock interviewers and assist with resume review. Members will assist the transition students with career development and getting ready to enter the workforce.

BAC Meeting Lawton DRS Office, September 19, 2019

BAC Meeting Lawton DRS Office, January 30, 2020

Muskogee BAC- The Muskogee Business Advisory Council's focus this year is soft skills, job interviewing and resume expectation was to increase the client's skills in getting and maintaining employment. It is clear that in many cases people has the academic and training skills, but lack the confidence and appropriate behaviors to perform well in the process of getting employment and maintaining the jobs, not because they cannot do the job, but because there are some aspects or skills (soft skills) not developed due to the lack of experience or long period of unemployment. This year my expectation for the BAC is to keep and strength the relationships built with the different businesses owners and HR people, so as soon as we can resume our work, we will continue with the BAC project. The Muskogee BAC will adjust (if possible) starting the last week of June and will continue as stablished in our calendar in the months of September and December.

Oklahoma City BAC assisted with planning of the Career Opportunity Expo in February of 2020.

Tulsa BAC has been focusing on certain groups of disability and having speakers at the meetings such as blindness, deaf and hard of hearing. BAC is learning each area to be more competent in working with all types of disabilities. The project BAC has been working on is Diversity and Inclusion Career and Resource Fair, in which was cancelled due to the COVID-19 events. For the future, no face to face meetings will be held, however zoom meetings and virtual projects are a possibility. For 2021, Tulsa BAC agreed to participate in the DRS Career Expo in Tulsa.

OLBPH

The AIM Center continues to provide equipment to TVIs and to many parents for the at home "schooling" that is happening until the completion of the semester. Many parents have signed up for services and have requested items be mailed directly to their home.

Brailers are being repaired and sent back out as quickly as possible as well.

Circulation of audio books is being maintained with hundreds of books going out daily. All items are being sanitized upon receipt back into the library prior to being catalogued and available for the next patron.

Librarians are teleworking and able to answer questions, assist patrons and take "orders" just as they normally would from the office.

Production:

Title I:	Applications to date = 168	Cases in Service Status = 757
	Cases in Delayed Status = 84	Successful Closures = 55
	Avg Hourly Wage/Succ. Closure = \$14.63/hour	

Older Blind:	Applications to date = 104	Plans Written = 91
	Cases Currently Being Served = 220	Goals Met = 115
	Actual Service Hours = 7,630	

Division Administrator Activities:

Highlights--- Policy Committee; Blindness Agency Community of Practice Meeting; VR/SBVI Performance Measures Meetings; Commission Meetings; ETeam Meetings; ORC; ORC Exec. Committee;; BEP Training: CSAVR Calls; YTAC Conference Planning Call; Academy Planning Meeting; NCSAB calls and Exec Committee; ECM Meetings; Telework ongoing planning and staff meetings; BEP manager meetings; BEP Training meetings; Governors Council on Workforce Development Meeting; OCA Conference; Academy presentations; Meeting with state leasing; Meeting with OU Sooner Works; RSA Commissioner calls; Wintac Presenter on Telework

Respectfully Submitted:
Tracy Brigham, MBS, LPC, SBVI Division Administrator