

# The Informer

DRTC Ability at Work

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## Slight Changes in Pay

Some of you might have noticed a difference in your paychecks. Those working in the Production Center are seeing less work and a reduction in their income. Based on our understanding, recent tariff issues are causing material and equipment delays so the companies we contract with are having to delay our work. As a result, not as much work has been available in the Production Center.

This also impacted the enclaves. We usually have three groups go out every day; however, for the past two months, we have had to reduce groups, or the businesses have sometimes cancelled because of lack of products.

Although this may continue for some time, we are looking to create partnerships with more industries, such as the food, health and hospitality industries. We hope to build additional enclaves in food preparations, restaurant and hospitality as well as custodial.

As we continue to look at moving away from 14(c), our focus will be on hourly wage jobs in the community as well as efficiencies or production rates for jobs in the Production Center. If you have any questions about your loved one and where they may fit within these options, please contact Angela Duckett at (405) 946-4489 ext 1409.



## Task Force Closer to Forming

Oklahoma lawmakers approved HB1833, which would create a task force to develop a plan to phase out the use of paying people living with disabilities subminimum wages under the 14(c) certificate issued through the US Dept. of Labor Wage and Hour Division. HB1833 passed both the House and Senate this session. If it becomes law, HB1833 will create an eleven-member task force to look into an Oklahoma-based plan to phase out subminimum wages in the state. The task force will also address potential obstacles or negative effects of phasing out subminimum wages, as well as alternatives like day programs for those who do not want to transition to competitive integrated employment. HB1833 is now heading to Governor Stitt for consideration.



## Summer Heat

As the days get hotter, it is important for everyone to remember to hydrate. When we go outside for a break, or even work in the Production Center, you need to have a drink available. Make sure you bring your spill-proof water bottle to work to avoid spills in the work area.



Brenda enjoying the warm weather

### Agency Closures:

May 26 - Memorial Day

June 30 - Agency Orientation Day

July 1 - New Program Year Preparation

July 4 - Holiday

### Helpful Resources:

[ouhsc.edu/thecenter/Publications/Focus-Facts](http://ouhsc.edu/thecenter/Publications/Focus-Facts)

[oklahoma.gov/ddco](http://oklahoma.gov/ddco)

Thank you!