

The Informer

DRTC Ability at Work

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Task Force work begins

A new task force created to propose how Oklahoma will phase out the payment of subminimum wages to people living with disabilities held its first meeting in January. For context, clients working in the Production Center earn subminimum wages, which means their earnings are based on the number of pieces they complete and not an hourly rate. DRTC is proactively working to transition away from the piece rate system before it becomes a statewide requirement. This approach will enable DRTC pathways that are most beneficial for the clients and agency.

DRTC Executive Director/CEO Deborah Copeland and CIE Coordinator Sue Gill were both appointed to the new task force. In March, the task force will reconvene. All families, caregivers and interested parties are encouraged to visit the Capitol to share their perspective on this important issue.



Deborah at the Task Force

People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2026

People with Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, at the Oklahoma History Center (800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., OKC) from 12-4:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with more than 70 disability-centric organizations and gain valuable information. Admission is free for everyone. There will also be a performance featuring the Oklahoma School for the Blind and Oklahoma School for the Deaf at 1 p.m., followed by awards at 3 p.m.

OK-APSE Conference

DRTC vocational staff will be participating the Oklahoma Association of People Supporting Employment First (OK-APSE) Conference on April 8. As a result, Main Campus programs will be closed that day.



DRTC staff at 2025 OK-APSE

Meet Kat!

Kat is DRTC's Service Learner from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is our first occupational therapist student doing her capstone project with us. Currently, Kat is working with the Community Skills and Connections Program to help clients know what opportunities exist for them in the community. She is collecting data to make the program the best it can be. Kat started with DRTC in January and is with us until April, then she graduates in May with her doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Welcome to DRTC, Kat!



Kat

Lunch and Learn sessions

Another series of Lunch and Learn will be organized for caregivers whose loved ones are in the Production Center. Caregivers are encouraged to attend one of these sessions to stay informed about upcoming program changes and understand how these changes will affect individuals attending DRTC. Please note that these sessions are specifically for the production area. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Help us keep everyone safe!

DRTC works hard to keep everyone safe and we need your help. Clients who have a fever, chills, cough or sore throat, or are sick to their stomach need to stay home. Sometimes these viruses are airborne and we don't want to them to spread. Remember you must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of any over-the-counter assistance before returning to DRTC.

Spring Craft Fair

Save the date: the Spring Craft Fair is set for Wednesday, March 18, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in MBS. There are a lot of fun holidays and events to celebrate around this time of year, so we look forward to seeing what crafts and hand made artistry will be available. Please join us!

In-House Programs Closed

April 8 - Vocational Services Professional Day

May 25 - Memorial Day

June 29 & 30 - Staff Orientation Day & New Program Year Preparation