



Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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May 18, 2010

Ms. Diane Bowers
Department of Rehabilitation Services
3535 NW 58th St. Suite 500
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

Dear Ms. Bowers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing Oklahoma ABLE Tech to submit information including goals, strategies and measures on Attachment 4.8(b)(1) Cooperation, Collaboration, and Coordination initiatives between ABLE Tech and the Department of Rehabilitation Services. ABLE Tech looks forward to its continued partnership with the Visual Services Division as we work to increase the number of individuals who have access to device loans and device demonstrations. It is ABLE Tech's hope to increase the access to assistive technology with a formalized partnership with the Vocational Rehabilitation Division. ABLE Tech is also pleased to partner with the ODRS with the new pilot program "Using Assistive Technology and Self Determination to Attain Transition Goals". Additionally, the cooperation, collaboration, and coordination efforts with the AgrAbility program have been very important to farmers with disabilities who are able to maintain their self employment as a result of ODRS services.

ABLE Tech supports the expansion of assistive technology devices and services under the State Strategies 4.11(d). The method that addresses the Oklahoma Agenda on Blindness - implementing the findings/recommendations, is critical to enable individuals with low vision and blindness to reach their employment and independent living goals. Since those recommendations include: more AT instructors, individualized training approach, curriculum development, AT training at home on own equipment when needed, continuing education for AT staff and ongoing support for AT users, it will be important to dedicate more staff and contractors to meet this state strategy. In addition, to address the needs of individuals receiving services from the Vocational Rehabilitation Division, ABLE Tech would support an addition to the State Strategies on assistive technology to include the recommendations of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Assistive Technology Ad-hoc Committee that includes: the need for additional staff/contract services, additional training to both agency personnel as well as client using AT, and improve the procedure for clients to access needed assistive technology devices and services throughout their rehabilitation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milissa Gofourth".

Milissa Gofourth
Program Manager