



Hearing of Interim Study (IS-2021-33)

Enhancing economic opportunity and quality of life of Oklahomans with disabilities through transportation and workforce development

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 • 1:30 p.m.

Presenters Bio Page



Richard Anderson, Chairman
Oklahoma ADAPT

Richard of Norman, Oklahoma has been fighting continuously to improve the lives of Americans with disabilities, while making sure that the ADA is being enforced to its full extent.

Richard has been an advocate for the rights of Americans with disabilities, and especially in Oklahoma going on for 27 years. In 2017, Richard was appointed to the first ADAPT Chapter in this State and has been the Chairman of Oklahoma ADAPT ever since.



Melinda Freundt, Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

As executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Melinda Freundt leads more than 1,000 state employees who served 76,134 Oklahomans with disabilities in 2021. She previously served as DRS chief of staff for DRS' seven divisions with 25 statewide programs focused on employment, education, independence and the determination of medical eligibility for disability benefits. Her past positions include executive-level project coordinator for DRS and program manager of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council, a DRS partner.

Melinda grew up the youngest of six children on a family farm in Chouteau and continues to farm and ranch with her husband Paul in Guthrie where they have a cow-calf and stocker operation, as well as diversified crops production.

She was honored with the Workforce Champion award in 2016 from the Oklahoma Association of Workforce Development Boards and the Oklahoma Workforce Association.



Olivia Hook, *Manager of Development*
Oklahoma Transit Association

Olivia Hook is the Manager of Development at the Oklahoma Transit Association where she is responsible for grant writing and implementation. She also specializes in mobility improvement planning, project implementation, and essential coordination of existing transportation services. Previously, she served as a Statewide Mobility Coordinator for the Ohio Department of Transportation where her primary responsibilities included leading the Mobility Management Program that provides mobility solutions for Ohio residents, HST Coordinated Plan management and the Regions Pilot Project. Olivia spearheaded initiatives by building core fundamentals in each area of mobility management, bringing the program to an advanced level of service. Olivia is knowledgeable in federal transportation funding options and the importance of person-centered planning in order to meet the mobility needs of all Oklahomans.



Kendra McGeady, *Director of Pelivan Transit*
Grand Gateway Economic Development Association

Kendra Sue McGeady has been the director of Pelivan Transit since March of 2016. Located in Northeast Oklahoma, Pelivan Transit provides demand/response and on-demand transit services to seven counties which cover 4,466 square miles. Well integrated with tribal nations, Pelivan also provides transit for ten tribes including the Cherokee Nation, and the nine tribes of Ottawa County. Pelivan Transit was named Community Transit Association of America (CTAA) Rural Transit System of the Year in 2018. Kendra serves as a national board member for CTAA representing rural and tribal transit, is a member of the Oklahoma Transit Association Board of Directors, serves as Treasurer of the Southwest Transit Association.



Jared Schwennesen, *Rail Program Division Manager*
Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Jared Schwennesen, P.E., was named the Rail Division Manager for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in June. In 2009, Schwennesen began his tenure with ODOT as an Engineer in Training. Since then, he held roles in Bridge Division; Traffic Division; Maintenance in ITS and Fiber Optics and Environmental Programs Division. His most recent position was serving as the assistant to the Director of Capital Programs.

In 2007, Schwennesen earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. In 2008, He went on to earn his Master of Science in Civil Engineering from OU and joined ODOT soon after. Additionally, he gained his professional engineering license in 2012. Having worked as a manager and designer in a diverse group of ODOT divisions, Schwennesen is prepared to lead Rail Division as it seeks to improve Oklahoma's passenger and freight rail systems.