

STATEWIDE AGREEMENT
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS
And
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
And
DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

In the spirit of offering services to enhance the independence of individuals with disabilities in Washington State the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (AIVRP), the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) and the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) agree to work cooperatively to facilitate access to vocational rehabilitation services for American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities who want to work. This Agreement represents the cooperation, coordination, and collaboration necessary to create an effective service delivery partnership designed to increase employment opportunities for those served by our programs.

The parties to this Agreement commit to upholding and promoting the values and principles contained in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DVR, DSB, and AIVRP will meet all required obligations and responsibilities contained in their respective federal, tribal and/or state laws and regulations.

This Agreement will not abridge any powers, rights or responsibilities under applicable federal, tribal, and/or state laws, state and/or constitutions, standards, administrative rules or Executive Orders of either party. All activities under this Agreement will be carried out in accordance with these conditions, laws, rules, standards and orders.

PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

- ◆ Colville Confederated Tribes VR Program
- ◆ Cowlitz Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Lummi Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ North Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Samish Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Yakama Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Nisqually Indian Tribe
- ◆ Washington Department of Services for the Blind
- ◆ Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SERVICE POPULATION

The Congress of the United States mandates DVR and DSB to serve all eligible individuals with disabilities, including American Indians and Alaskan Natives who are members of federally recognized tribes, within Washington State.

The Congress of the United States mandates an AIVRP to provide vocational rehabilitation services to eligible American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities living on or near a reservation. The defined service area shall be established by the individual AIVRP.

PURPOSE

All AIVRPs funded by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) are required to have a written cooperative agreement with DVR and DSB.

All parties to this Agreement have a responsibility to provide quality vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities, to assist such individuals to become more empowered, more independent and economically self-sufficient through employment outcomes which provide meaningful, gainful and sustained work. Consistent with this responsibility, the goal of this Agreement is to ensure:

1. American Indians and Alaskan Natives receive the fullest scope of vocational rehabilitation services possible;
2. American Indians and Alaskan Natives are offered an informed choice of program, services and service providers;
3. A cooperative and service-oriented relationship is established and maintained between DVR, DSB and AIVRP; and
4. The individual programs and their consumers benefit from shared expertise, shared training, professional collaboration and the enhanced capabilities that will necessarily grow from this relationship.

This Agreement will not place restrictions on any program in the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities, nor will it abridge the absolute rights of the individuals receiving services.

SHARED VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Parties to this Agreement agree to the following shared values and principles:

- ◆ AIVRP, DSB and DVR are equal partners with special sets of expertise in serving consumers successfully
- ◆ Mutual respect for cultural contributions, traditions and values
- ◆ The invaluable contributions and wisdom of our elders
- ◆ Independence for people with disabilities
- ◆ Individuals with disabilities can work
- ◆ Informed choice
- ◆ Cooperation among partners improves and expands the quality of employment outcomes for consumers of vocational rehabilitation programs

- ◆ Successful vocational rehabilitation of American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities requires the provision of professional and culturally appropriate services.

PROGRAM COORDINATION

All parties to this agreement will:

- ◆ Cooperate in providing vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities to ensure full access to all available resources.
- ◆ Jointly serve eligible Alaskan Natives and American Indian consumer cases when it is in the best interests of the individual.
- ◆ To the maximum extent possible, DVR and DSB will use existing information provided by the AIVRP to expedite eligibility determination.
- ◆ Obtain necessary releases of confidential information prior to sharing information about an individual with other parties under this Agreement.
- ◆ Provide consumers with appropriate referral information when they may be eligible and/or may prefer to co-enroll in vocational rehabilitation services from another party to this Agreement.
- ◆ Provide AIVRP and state vocational rehabilitation counselors with adequate time to work cooperatively on cases where an individual is being jointly served by both programs.
 - Programs will maintain separate case service records.
 - Invite respective vocational rehabilitation counselors to participate in initial interviews, identification of functional barriers to employment, plan development meetings, visits to work sites, and marketing outreach efforts.
 - Individualized Plans for Employment will, when appropriate, be jointly developed and accepted by each partner and consumer to assure delivery of a comprehensive level of services in a coordinated manner.
 - Make prompt decisions on matters which affect the progress of consumer services, and ensure services are not duplicated.
 - Accommodate AIVRP and state vocational rehabilitation counselors with office space, as needed, to meet with American Indians and Alaskan Natives who wish to receive services at an AIVRP or state vocational rehabilitation office other than the office where the individual's vocational rehabilitation counselor is assigned.
- ◆ Agree that consumers maintain the right to seek assistance through established channels, including, but not limited to, the Client Assistance Program, Fair Hearing, Administrative Review and, where applicable, tribal courts.
- ◆ Work together to capture Social Security Reimbursement for all program expenditures.

- ◆ DVR and/or DSB may enter into a fee for services contract with the AIVRP to serve non-native individuals who live within the program's established service delivery area.
- ◆ AIVRP, DVR and/or DSB will work together to identify and designate an experienced staff member within each office and/or territory respectively to act as a liaison to meet with American Indian and Alaskan Native consumers and coordinate with the local AIVRP office.
- ◆ DVR and/or DSB will support staff, in particular the liaison, in attending AIVRP training opportunities.
- ◆ DVR and DSB are committed to working together with AIVRP partners to identify and recruit qualified tribal members as applicants for current and future openings at all levels in the State VR programs. DVR and DSB will continue to develop job shadowing, internship and practicum opportunities to increase employment opportunities for tribal members.
- ◆ DVR and DSB are committed to providing mentoring, training and promoting qualified tribal members to be successful in employment at all levels in the State VR programs.

EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

AIVRP, DSB and DVR will:

- ◆ Meet at least annually to coordinate program, service and/or jurisdictional issues that may arise.
- ◆ Maintain open communication to ensure program and consumer information of mutual concern is shared:
 - Technical or legal questions that arise requiring professional consultation.
 - Computer technology related to providing vocational rehabilitation services, including the shared data systems.
 - Current information regarding Community Rehabilitation Programs and Independent Living Providers certified to provide services to participants.
- ◆ Exchange training, consultation, technical assistance, assessment tools, and other program information to enhance service delivery to American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities.
 - Parties will consult with one another in the development of joint curriculum for training.
 - Information on training opportunities will be disseminated to all parties, as appropriate.
 - AIVRP, DSB and DVR will share information regarding training opportunities and include staff in training whenever possible and will offer training that will maximize cultural competence and enhance ability to better meet the needs of American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities.

- Regional training sessions will incorporate training specific to the interaction between AIVRP, DVR, and DSB.
- Assist in accessing work related information through the Social Security information process.

MODIFICATIONS AND TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

This Agreement is intended to be a living document, changing as necessary, to meet the needs of the parties and the service population. Amendments, revisions and addenda to this Agreement shall be entered into with mutual agreement of the parties noted.

This Agreement may be terminated by any party; such termination must be delivered, in writing, (30) thirty days in advance, to all parties. By such termination, no party may nullify obligations incurred prior to the effective date of the termination.

Directors of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs, DVR and DSB will meet annually to review the MOU and consider amendments.

TERM

This cooperative Agreement shall take effect from the date of signature and shall continue, without disruption, through consecutive grant periods of the AIVRP, unless amended as noted above.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the tribes.

Signature by DVR, DSB and each AIVRP official will engage the MOU for that AIVRP.


If any element of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions within this Agreement will not be affected.

SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREEMENT

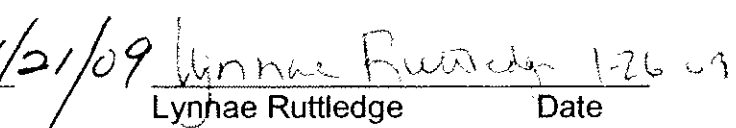
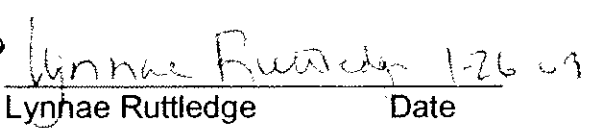
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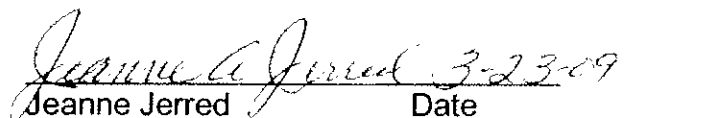
SIGNATORIES:



LouOma Durand Date
Director
Department of Services for the Blind

 1/21/09  1-26-09


Lynhae Rutledge Date
Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

 3-23-09


Jeanne Jerred Date
Chair
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

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SIGNATORIES:



LouOma Durand Date 1/21/09
Director
Department of Services for the Blind




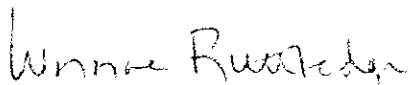
Lynnæ Rutledge Date 1-26-09
Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

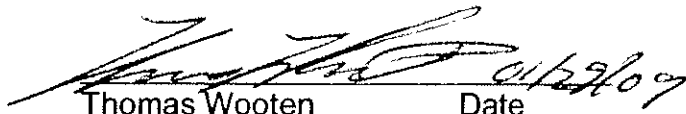


Henry M. Cagey Date
Chairman
Lummi Indian Business Council

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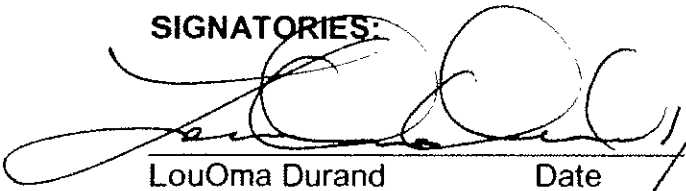
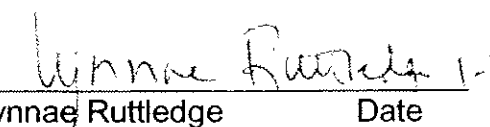
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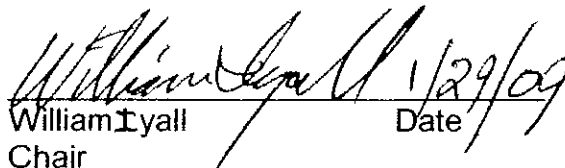
	<u>1/21/09</u>		<u>1-26-09</u>
LouOma Durand	Date	Lynnae Rutledge	Date
Director		Director	
Department of Services for the Blind		Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

	<u>01/27/09</u>
Thomas Wooten	Date
Chair	
Samish Indian Nation	

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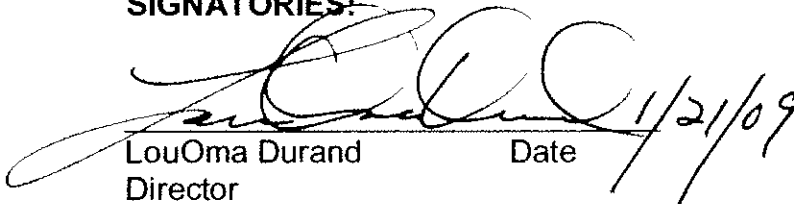
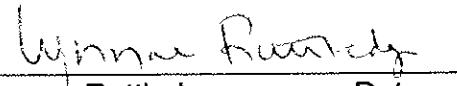
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	<u>1/21/09</u>		<u>1-26-09</u>
LouOma Durand	Date	Lynnae Ruttledge	Date
Director		Director	
Department of Services for the Blind		Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

	<u>1/29/09</u>
William Tyall	Date
Chair	
Cowlitz Tribal Council	

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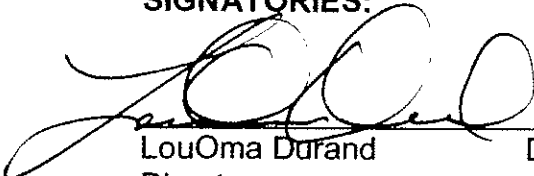
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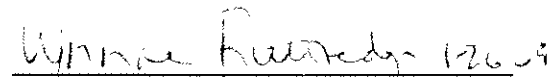
	<u>1/21/09</u>		<u>1-26-09</u>
LouOma Durand	Date	Lynnae Rutledge	Date
Director		Director	
Department of Services for the Blind		Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

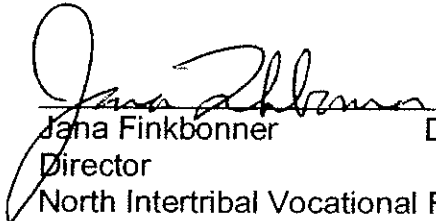

1/26/09
Amadeo Tiam Date
Executive Director
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

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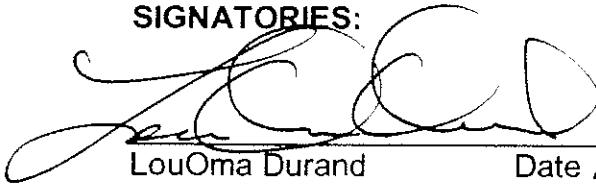
 1/20/09
LouOma Durand Date
Director
Department of Services for the Blind

 126-9
Lynnae Rutledge Date
Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

 2/11/09
Jana Finkbonner Date
Director
North Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation
Program

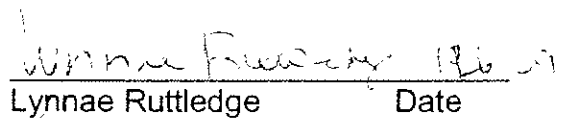
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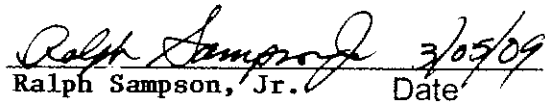
Lou Oma Durand Date 1/21/09

Director
Department of Services for the Blind



Lynnae Rutledge Date 1/26/09

Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



Ralph Sampson, Jr. Date 3/05/09

Chair
Yakama Tribal Nation