



DRAFT MEETING NOTES

IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting

**Aging & Disability Services Building, Lacey, WA
December 1, 2008**

The IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting convened on December 1, 2008 at the Aging & Disability Services Building in Lacey, WA.

▶ **In Attendance**

The following tribes/organizations were in attendance:

Colville Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, SPIPA, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, United Indians of All Tribes, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Chehalis Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and the Puyallup Tribe.

Representatives from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Economic Services Administration (ESA) were in attendance. ESA representatives included staff from:

State Tribal Relations Office (STRO), Division of Child Support (DCS), Community Services Division (CSD), Operations Support (OS), Office of the Assistant Secretary (OAS).

Representatives from the DSHS Indian Policy Support Services (IPSS) were also in attendance.

▶ **Welcome & Introductions:**

Sarah Colleen Sotomish, STRO Administrator for ESA, welcomed everyone to the IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting and asked for introductions.

▶ **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Updates:**

- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Community Relations Administrator, Avreyal Jacobson, showed two DVD's. The 1st DVD outlines the DVR service process and demonstrates DVR's commitment to partnering with other service systems to provide meaningful employment outcomes to people with disabilities. The 2nd DVD introduces the High School Transition to Work portion of DVR's work. Participants receive a related partnership brochure with key concepts and contact information.

There are two additional DVDs available: one introducing DVR services to adults and the other for employers, encouraging them to hire people with disabilities and sharing DVR resources available to employers. In the next month DVR will have the DVDs streaming from their website. Copies of the DVDs are available by contacting DVR at 1-800-637-5627 or logging onto www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr and clicking on "Contact DVR".

- Lynnae Ruttledge, DVR Director, reminded participants DVR has had no wait list since Feb. 10, 2008 resulting in DVR services being more available than previous years with a wait list. DVR is focusing on building strong partnerships with tribes and state agencies that work with people with disabilities. There will be a Dec. 9, 2008 meeting in Yakima with the Tribal VR Programs, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Services for the Blind to review and update a government-to-government MOU between these three service systems providing vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities.
- Avreayl Jacobson offered to present information to committee members on the new Ticket to Work rules, including the updated employment network possibilities at the next committee meeting. This is a new unrestricted revenue stream to provide employment services and supports to people with disabilities wishing to work. She will be presenting this information to Reg. 3 Tribes Dec.2, 2008.

► Partnership with United Indians of All Tribes Foundation:

- Assistant Secretary of ESA, Troy Hutson, discussed the partnership that ESA is developing with United Indians of All Tribes (UIAT) to improve services to Urban Indians. He talked about doing more partnerships to improve access to ESA services with an emphasis on Basic Food, and his plans to prepare a proposal to seek grant funding for the purpose of improving services to tribal members in King County. Troy has briefed IPAC leadership on his plans to write a proposal to implement a process to improve service delivery for Urban Indians.
- ESA has also discussed initiatives with UIAT to provide services to youth and greater access to employment and training resources. He shared his commitment to partner with tribes and Recognized Urban Indian Organizations to ensure Native Americans and Alaska Natives have equal access to benefits they need to succeed to support their families.
- Executive Director of United Indians of All Tribes, Marty Bluewater, and Sarah Colleen Sotomish, STRO Administrator both stated they also look forward to the partnership and working together.

► State MOE Funding for Tribal TANF:

- Troy Hutson discussed the significant budget shortfall Washington State is experiencing as a result of the continued slowing of the economy and the impacts this will have on ESA. He explained that ESA's budget could be reduced by as much as 20% although there will not be final decisions in place until the Governor's budget comes out on December 20. The State Legislature will also prepare budget proposals. He explained a proposal has been made to reduce state MOE funding for Tribal TANF programs by 10%. He stated any reductions should not affect current Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with the Tribes but may affect the IGAs that are up for renewal.
- Jennifer La Pointe inquired about the budget and who would be responsible for ongoing communication with the Tribes.
- Troy stated that the Governor's Office would have the lead in developing a communication plan regarding the proposed budget. He encouraged interested

participants to view information regarding the budget once it has been released at the Office of Financial Management's website: www.ofm.wa.gov/default.asp

▶ DCS Proposed Legislation for 2009 Updates:

- Division of Child Support (DCS) Legislative Manager, Nancy Koptur, discussed the department's plan to move forward with a revised version of Z-0015 Medical Support Enforcement Bill. The department will not pursue two other pieces of legislation that were under consideration earlier this year.

▶ Tribal Income Workgroup:

- David Rendon announced that the ESA and DVR IPAC Subcommittee is hosting their first State - Tribal Income Workgroup meeting on Friday, December 5, 2008 at CV2. He explained the workgroup will have Tribal, IPSS, ESA, HRSA, and ADSA representatives and they will be working collaboratively to define key terms surrounding tribal income. David welcomed other tribal representatives to join in on this discussion.
- A request was made for teleconferencing to be made available for those who would like to participate by phone. Sandy Jsames will ensure conference call arrangements are made and the call in number and pin is distributed prior to Friday's meeting.

▶ Matrix Update:

- Rosi Francis, IPSS Region Manager, reviewed and updated the matrix with the group. Rosi Francis will update the meeting matrix and distribute with the meeting minutes.
- A tribal representative encouraged DVR HQ staff to visit tribal sites.
- DVR would like to share how they have been working, regionally, with tribes at the next meeting.

▶ Next Steps:

- **The next IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee** meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2009.

▶ Follow up assignments include:

- Schedule another IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meeting for March 2, 2009.
- Obtain future ESA-DVR Subcommittee agenda items. DVR made a commitment to discuss what they have been doing (regionally) to work and meet with tribes.
- IPSS will complete and distribute the revised matrix.

